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New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Loulichki (Morocco), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1)

Draft resolution (A/66/L.53)

Mr. Sbatella (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on convening this important meeting of the General Assembly, and to thank Canada for its work to achieve a consensus on the text of the draft resolution (A/66/L.53), which reflects the main priorities of the action plan of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We welcome that effort because we believe that the fight against terrorism cannot be effective without coordination and consensus on goals.

The next two years will be a challenge in achieving a balanced implementation of the Strategy, in particular in strengthening the work on those pillars where we see significant shortfalls, primarily on measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the foundation of the fight against terrorism. We agree with the Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force that the implementation of international human rights standards and the rule of law remain weak within the context of dealing with terrorist crimes, and that further effort needs to be undertaken to strengthen that awareness.

In addressing the complex aspects of counter-terrorism, there is also international consensus on the obligation of States to respect human righ Consequently, the fight against terrorism must not be set apart from those established values.

Among the contributions that my country has made in that area, we would underscore the boost given to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance when it was specially mentioned as a significant contribution in resolution 66/171 to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the fight against terrorism.

With respect to dialogue and understanding, Argentina supports and promotes the dialogue among civilizations and cultures in order to develop and promote humanitarian education and culture, helping to remove inequalities and encourage respect for diversity.

Argentina has suffered from two massive terrorist attacks. We believe, as noted by the late President Nestor Kirchner on the occasion of the summit meeting of the Security Council in 2005 (see S/PV.5261), that new threats to international peace and security such as terrorism have in the end helped us to understand the true concept of solidarity among nations. In that context, international cooperation, including judicial cooperation, is crucial both in terms of extradition and mutual legal assistance and in combating the

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financing of terrorism. I would therefore like to refer to the progress made by my country in the past year on measures to counter the financing of terrorism.

Recent legislative reforms have incorporated into the penal code rules that are able to adapt continuously to the international treaties in that sphere. Law 26734, enacted in December 2011, amends and expands the crime of financing of terrorism and criminalizes the financing pursuant to the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). In particular, it refers to the collection or provision of funds to be used in terrorist acts by terrorism organizations or by an individual terrorist.

A new type of crime is covered in the legislation — "crime against the financial and economic order" — that involves the collection or provision of goods or money to finance crimes intended to terrorize the population. The law also introduces a taxonomy that distinguishes between a terrorist act committed individually and one committed by an illicit association formed for that purpose, while specifically excluding all forms of social protest from qualifying as a terrorist act. In addition, the minimum and maximum sanctions applicable to any crime under Argentine law will be doubled if it is committed with terrorist objectives.

Along those lines, the recent Presidential Decree 918 of 2012 sets forth in its chapter II a procedure for the administrative freezing of funds related to the crime of financing terrorism, empowering the Financial Information Unit that I head to act quickly and efficiently. The Decree was recognized in a communiqué of the President of the FATF in a recent meeting in Rome, which stated the following:

> "The FATF welcomed the continued progress made by Argentina and the substantial steps taken in addressing its anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) deficiencies identified in the mutual evaluation in October 2010, in particular the new Presidential Decree creating a framework for freezing of terrorist-related assets. The FATF also welcomed Argentina's updated action plan on measures and milestones to assess Argentina's effective implementation of its money laundering offence, and urges Argentina's continued progress in this area for October 2012. The FATF will continue to work with Argentina in the follow-up process and encourages Argentina to continue addressing its remaining AML/CFT deficiencies."

Regionally, our security forces have worked with immigration and customs officials and with the security forces of neighbouring countries, whose members cooperate in the fight against arms trafficking, smuggling in all its forms, drug trafficking, kidnapping, money-laundering, illegal smuggling and trafficking of persons, and monitoring data on activities associated with international terrorism and related crimes.

Subregionally, Argentina takes part in the specialized forum on terrorism of the Southern Cone Common Market, which constitutes a dynamic and fruitful forum for exchanging information among security and intelligence forces of member States, and a channel for conveying useful conclusions to decisionmakers.

With regard to maritime and aviation security, Argentina has implemented the regulations of the International Maritime Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, and has begun to develop South-South cooperation projects.

In conclusion, we express Argentina's support for the draft text agreed during our negotiations on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review (A/66/L.53), and reiterates its determination to implement its principles and develop all its measures in the most effective manner in order that the threat may be eradicated.

Mr. Rosander (Sweden): I would like to extend my thanks to the President and our Facilitator, the Permanent Representative of Canada, for their very skilful efforts to bring us to where we are today.

My delegation aligns itself with the remarks made earlier today by the observer of the European Union on behalf of the Union and its member States.

I would like to take this opportunity to underline the fundamental importance Sweden attaches to a well-known counter-terrorism issue — the importance of public national counter-terrorism strategies — and the important role of the United Nations in supporting countries and regions in the process of developing such strategies, focusing on best practices. A public national counter-terrorism strategy provides not only a platform for action, but also sets standards. It serves as a basis for evaluation and a point of reference for public scrutiny. It brings counter-terrorism efforts out in the open, provides transparency and encourages public discussion. The process itself is also of great value, involving various ministries and agencies and

providing for a cross-cultural discussion that serves the comprehensive approach.

At the beginning of 2012, Sweden revised its national counter-terrorism strategy. At the same time, we also launched for the first time a national action plan against violent extremism. The plan will run for three years and involve a number of non-governmental organizations, including religious organizations. It will cover a wide field, including the so-called white power groups, the autonomous left and religiously motivated perpetrators of violence.

One of the fundamental points underlying the action plan is its clear focus on the younger generation and the role of schools and civil society. One of our greatest challenges overall in the global countering of violent extremism and terrorism is the vulnerability of our young people. One finds them everywhere — youngsters caught between cultures and value systems, seeking easy solutions in frustration and becoming easy prey for extremist messages. We need to provide our young people with the tools for critical thinking, and that should be reflected in our strategies and action plans.

We need deeper insight into the mechanisms behind terrorism and violent extremism. We need to reach out to scholars and researchers. A fundamental element is support to civil society organizations engaged in countering extremism.

Part of the Swedish action plan is a special study on best methods to strengthen young people's democratic values, and a study on how xenophobia and similar forms of intolerance can best be combated. It also includes, inter alia, a study on how youngsters can be made less vulnerable to anti-democratic messages spread via the Internet, with a view to developing their awareness as media users.

Terrorist and violence-promoting propaganda on the Internet is a highly complex issue, and we need to keep a sound perspective, not throwing out the baby with the bathwater, as it were. The internet has given us tremendous new opportunities, including increased openness and transparency; there are few dark corners in the world anymore.

If we believe that human development depends on the individual expression of ideas, then we have a very strong case for protecting a free Internet. The Internet has been developing relatively free of State interference, based on a multi-stakeholder approach, and we should be careful not to deviate from that path to success. Unfortunately, we see that the fear of terrorism is increasingly being used as an excuse for regulating the free flow of information on the Internet and even for censorship. The problem of the Internet being abused as a channel for spreading messages advocating violence and extremism has to be dealt with by means other than censorship. Combating hate speech on the internet should be a task for the law enforcement agencies within the rule of law, safeguarding human rights and freedoms and international law.

Finally, I would like to assure the General Assembly of Sweden's support for the greater coherence, visibility and effectiveness of the United Nations counter-terrorism activities. In our view, a positive contribution to the achievement of those goals would be to create a single United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. Sweden very much looks forward to the Assembly addressing that issue during its sixty-seventh session.

Ms. King (Australia): Australia very much welcomes the third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Allow me to express our strong appreciation for the leadership provided by Ambassador Rishchynski and his team in facilitating negotiations on the important and consensus draft resolution before us (A/66/L.53).

The fight against terrorism remains a critical priority for Australia. As we all know too well, terrorism continues to kill and maim innocent people, damages property and infrastructure, fosters fear in local communities, undermines social and economic confidence and, in many cases, entrenches the forces of poverty.

Australia recognizes the unique and valuable role played by the United Nations in combating terrorism. We believe that the United Nations — as the only organization with a truly global mandate, and which itself has been the target of devastating terrorist attacks — plays a key role in those efforts. The United Nations has the capacity to condemn and confront terrorism in all its forms, while helping to ensure that global efforts are rooted in respect for human rights, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

There have been a number of important achievements in the fight against terrorism since the last review of the Strategy, but the threat from terrorist groups has not diminished. Rather, it is evolving in new and challenging

ways. It is showing itself to be innovative, adaptable and, above all, resilient.

Terrorists are exploiting instability in some parts of the world to expand their geographical reach. They are also taking advantage of new technologies to coordinate their actions, spread their message and recruit new members. The challenge for us all is to ensure that international cooperation against terrorism adapts and innovates at least as quickly as the enduring threat we face.

Australia believes that the need for the Strategy and the coordinated action of Member States in support of it is as strong as ever. We welcome the focus that the United Nations is giving to countering the appeal of terrorism in our societies, including through initiatives such as the seminar convened yesterday. Australia will be drawing on the outcomes of the seminar in our work with regional partners, particularly in prison management.

Regional approaches to combating terrorism are crucial, and we are pleased that Member States have recognized the value of regional initiatives undertaken to implement the Strategy. In South and South-East Asia, Australia is working closely with partners to strengthen criminal justice systems and law enforcement capabilities, primarily through our support for the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation. We would like to acknowledge the leading role that Indonesia plays in the region in hosting the Centre and more broadly.

Australia has also significantly increased our cooperation with countries in Africa, especially to address threats in the Sahel and Maghreb, providing anti-money-laundering and counter-terrorism financing training, technical support on mutual legal assistance and border management capacity-building. We have integrated the support with poverty reduction initiatives in the light of the very strong nexus between security and development.

Australia supports the draft resolution that is before us today. We have been pleased with the high level of support for the Strategy that was expressed during the negotiations. Australia commends the role played by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in helping States to respond to threats.

The Secretary-General recommends in his report to the General Assembly (A/66/762) that a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator be appointed to further strengthen the coordination and coherence of the overall United Nations counter-terrorism effort. Australia strongly supports that recommendation. The appointment of a counter-terrorism coordinator would enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of United Nations actions to implement the Strategy. It would also reinforce the importance of the United Nations and its membership working together, based on universal principles, in the fight against terrorism. Member States have expressed their desire to consider the issue in a timely manner, and we look forward to that happening soon.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Australia's unwavering support for the Strategy and its four pillars. We will continue to strengthen implementation of the Strategy in our national, regional and multilateral efforts.

Mr. Momen (Bangladesh): At the outset, I thank Mr. John Baird, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, for his statement. Let me also thank the Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, Mr. Guillermo Rishchynski, for his role as the Facilitator of the current review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also extend our appreciation to all the other speakers today for their expressions of support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. However, I would like to highlight a few points in my national capacity.

Terrorism, in both its magnitude and diversity, is one of the gravest challenges, not only to international peace and security but also to human security and dignity. The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, through resolution 60/288, was a watershed achievement in the global fight against terrorism. The Strategy was adopted to streamline the coordination and coherence of the United Nations counter-terrorism work. The four pillars of the Strategy and the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to support its implementation were important steps in that direction.

Bangladesh fully supports the Strategy. Bangladesh was the facilitator of the resolution on the review of the Strategy in 2010. I share the view that all of the efforts made in the area of counter-terrorism under the auspices of the United Nations should be transparent and that

implementation should be strengthened. Considering the role played by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in countering terrorism, we also feel that all of the States Members of the United Nations should be briefed more frequently on its activities.

I followed the recommendations of Member States on the various preambular and operative paragraphs of the draft follow-up resolution (A/66/L.53) on counter-terrorism. I am pleased that all Member States ultimately were able to bridge the gap and finalize the text.

We are pleased at the gradual institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Bangladesh feels privileged to have partnered with the Task Force in the holding of a regional workshop — the South Asia Regional Meeting on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was held in Dhaka on 16 and 17 May 2012.

I welcome the Secretary-General's latest report (A/66/762), entitled "United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy". Briefly, the Secretary-General put forward five recommendations for the way forward: first, the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator; secondly, developing national and regional strategy implementation plans; thirdly, enhancing capacity-building efforts; fourthly, promoting international cooperation; and fifthly, strengthening international solidarity with victims of terrorism.

Here I wish to express my appreciation for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's initiative to set up the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and for its contribution to finance the Centre for the first three years of its operation, which we believe will promote international cooperation.

Bangladesh pursues a value-driven foreign policy that promotes peace, democracy, secularism, freedom, human rights, good governance and social justice, and upholds multilateralism. We believe that those values, coupled with our vibrant Bengali culture and our commitment to education, the empowerment of women, social inclusion and the socio-economic uplifting of our people, with the goal of creating livelihoods, as well as moral and ethical values and a mindset and culture of peace, form excellent counter-radicalization and counter-terrorism strategies and marginalize the extremists, whoever they may be. An inclusive society that empowers its people cannot go wrong in seeking to marginalize terrorists. Our deep ideological position on, and zero tolerance for, terrorism and radicalization are evident in our Government's strong anti-terrorism and anti-radicalization track record over the past few years.

Bangladesh condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It is a party to all 13 universal anti-terrorism instruments. Not only did Bangladesh's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, take the initiative to enact the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Anti-Money-Laundering Act in 2009; within a record two years we had laboriously upgraded and amended both laws to make them fully compliant with all provisions of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. To strengthen national actions to curb such transboundary crimes, we also ratified the Palermo Convention last year.

A national counter-terrorism strategy has been finalized. Our Government has been following, and will continue to follow, a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism and religious extremism. We have made history by penalizing both categories of actions with legal consequences and even the death penalty. Our Government has banned all of the terrorist groups designated by the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, and dismantled their networks. We remain confident but not complacent, and believe that ideologically as a nation we are holding the fort strongly against the terrorist and extremist elements that are involved in international terrorism. We are determined to continue our crusade against both categories of criminals without any compromise.

International terrorism is a transboundary crime, and the best and most logical way to address it is by continually strengthening our regional and global cooperation mechanisms to deal with this menace. The root causes of terrorism, including economic disparity, political and economic exclusion, prolonged and unresolved conflicts, the unfair and non-judicious treatment and intolerance of certain groups of people, deprivation and discrimination, and climatically induced loss of livelihood, must be addressed in this context. At the same time, respect for human rights and for the rule of law must prevail over any fight against terrorism. Any attempt to associate terrorism with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group should be avoided. The media must be used effectively to create

awareness of our resolve to fight terrorism and our means to do so. The world should strive for a universal agreement on the legal definition of terrorism, while a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, together with a distinction made for the legitimate struggle of peoples for independence from foreign occupation, should be concluded at an early date.

We also believe that the United Nations is the only legitimate multilateral body capable of coordinating global action against terrorism. National capacity-building and the training of counter-terrorism personnel in developing countries and least developed countries, such as Bangladesh, must remain high on the agenda of the United Nations and its partners for the effective combating of terrorism by all States.

Bangladesh will continue to consciously promote innovative socio-economic interventions, including the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, sustained economic growth, social safety nets for the inclusion of excluded people, microcredit-based livelihoods for women, people's empowerment and job creation for all, as well as a strong legal and institutional regime to counter the causes of terrorism and extremism.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the comprehensiveness of the strategy gives it a unique status as a document, but it is only through its effective and integrated implementation, in all its aspects, that we can defeat terrorism. Bangladesh reaffirms its support for the implementation of the Strategy and its four pillars in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is firmly committed to combating all terrorist acts, regardless of their perpetrators and motives. We welcome the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) that is before us today, which underscores the importance of the comprehensive and balanced implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and reaffirms the key role of States in its implementation.

My country is at the forefront of the combat against the terrible scourge of terrorism. The countless treaties and conventions signed by Venezuela are evidence of this. The Government of President Hugo Chávez Frías, aware of the role that the Venezuelan State must play in the combat against terrorism, has called for a set of legal instruments focusing on measures of monitoring, prevention and prosecution in combating the financing of terrorism and money-laundering. The best-known example of those mechanisms is the recently enacted organic law to combat organized crime and the financing of terrorism, the purpose of which is to prevent, investigate, codify and sanction crimes related to organized crime, with a particular emphasis on the financing of terrorism.

Terrorism assumes various forms and manifestations, but the most abhorrent is State terrorism. All States are compelled to comply with their international obligations. Terrorism is practised not just by non-State actors operating in shadowy illegality, but by States that practise it in the full light of day. Some imperialist Powers practise State terrorism, which they justify by invoking reasons of national security. State terrorism infringes upon the sovereignty of States, disregards the rule of international law and massively violates human rights.

Terrorism must not be associated with any religion, civilization or ethnic group; hence the importance of dialogue among the distinct civilizations and cultures. We must uproot prejudice, which hampers good relations among peoples, and promote solidarity among human beings.

The world continues to observe in horror while, on the pretext of supposed responsibility to protect and to combat terrorism, indiscriminate attacks are launched with missiles, bombs and drones against helpless people, causing thousands of deaths. A report published on 29 May 2012 in *The New York Times* by journalists Jo Becker and Scott Shane, states that: "[Obama] signs off on every strike in Yemen and Somalia and also on the more complex and risky strikes in Pakistan". According to Seumas Milne, writing in the British newspaper the *Guardian*, also on 29 May, in Pakistan alone drones have killed approximately 3,145 people, of whom 828 were civilians and 175 were children.

The 2002 Nobel Peace Prize recipient and former President of the United States Jimmy Carter, in an article published in *The New York Times* on 24 June 2012, denounced the fact that human rights, including the right to legitimate self-defence, respect for due process and the presumption of innocence are being brazenly violated in the United States under the pretext of combating terrorism. According to the former President, the Government of the United States is "violating at least 10 of the 30 articles [of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights], including the prohibition against

'cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.'" He also points out, "that any man killed by drones is declared an enemy terrorist" and "the death of nearby innocent women and children is accepted as inevitable".

The Nobel laureate also denounced the fact that the detention facility at Guantánamo Bay houses around 169 prisoners. About half of these have been cleared for release, yet have little prospect of ever obtaining their freedom. He notes that the methods of torture used include waterboarding, intimidation with semi-automatic weapons, power drills or threats of sexual assault against their family members, all in order to elicit forced confessions. That is irrefutable proof that human rights are being violated in the name of the war on terrorism. These violations are crimes that are clearly classified under the Rome Statute. Why does the International Criminal Court not open an investigation of the organizers and perpetrators of drone attacks? The people of the world are calling for an immediate end to State terrorism practised by the Government of the United States with its murderous drones.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has filed a request with the Government of the United States for the extradition of the well-known terrorist Luis Posada Carriles because of his responsibility in the planning of the terrorist attack carried out in 1976 against a Cubana de Aviación airliner, in which 73 innocent people lost their lives. Declassified documents of the State Department of the United States reveal that Posada Carriles is responsible for that terrorist act, and yet that agent of the Central Intelligence Agency has never been brought to justice in the United States to pay for his crimes. The United States Government is violating the extradition treaty and the international counter-terrorism conventions signed by that country by denying the extradition request put forward by Venezuela. Since 2007, Posada Carriles has been living peacefully in the United States and enjoys the protection of the Washington authorities.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela insists that combating terrorism must be carried out in strict compliance with the international and regional instruments that govern that field: the norms of public international law, human rights and international humanitarian law. For more than a decade, we have discussed terrorism in the Ad Hoc Committee established by the United Nations in 1996. It is now time to move from words to action and to adopt an international legal instrument to serve as a framework for effectively combating terrorism.

In conclusion, allow me to underscore the full commitment of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Al-Hatmi (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I am pleased to be here today to discuss and exchange views on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Despite the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 and international, regional and national efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of terrorism, the threat of terrorism remains and has been especially prevalent during the past few years. However, those efforts are not enough to eradicate terrorism and its causes due to the existence of many international conflicts that fuel and help spread terrorism.

The State of Qatar believes that terrorism at any level is dangerous and has paid close attention to all the efforts of the United Nations to eradicate it. To that end, the State of Qatar has pursued the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars.

Regarding pillar I, the State of Qatar has adopted an open cultural and educational policy based on dialogue. Qatar has also organized and hosted many conventions and meetings on interfaith dialogue and the alliance of civilizations, and established the Doha International Center for Interfaith Dialogue in 2007 and the Qatari National Committee for the Alliance of Civilizations in 2010.

Regarding pillar II, within the framework of preventing and combating terrorism, the State of Qatar has adopted a number of laws that criminalize terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including law No.3 on combating terrorism, which was adopted in 2004, and law No. 4 on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, which was adopted in 2010.

Regarding pillar III, on capacity-building, the State of Qatar has organized many training workshops on combating terrorism in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Regarding pillar IV, the State of Qatar confirms its leadership in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms. In this regard, its Constitution and national laws seek to ensure human rights. The State of Qatar

has also joined all international conventions on human rights.

We hope that our deliberations on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will result in the most effective measures being taken to guarantee the success of the Strategy in achieving its goals in the context of the United Nations counter-terrorism objectives.

In conclusion, I extend my deep gratitude and appreciation to the organizers of this meeting and to all those who participated in its preparation. I hope that our meeting will be successful.

Mr. Sobków (Poland): Poland fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the observer of the European Union.

At the outset, I would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, who, as facilitator, conducted the preparations for the current review and the final outcome, resulting in draft resolution A/66/L.53, which covers all elements that are important to the further implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Since the last review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Poland has taken several steps aimed at further developing and improving the national counter terrorism system.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy indicates the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. In this context, Poland has prepared a comprehensive national anti-terrorism programme for the years 2012-2016. It is focused, for example, on the prevention of radicalization and recruitment to terrorist organizations, responding to and remedying the effects of terrorist attacks, and international cooperation. Its priorities include working out an effective information policy and a platform for communicating with society.

The recently adopted National Critical Infrastructure Protection Programme indicates the roles and responsibilities of different Government agencies in the context of terrorist threats. We continue efforts to counteract cyberterrorism. The adoption of the National Cyberspace Security Policy is currently under way.

The Polish presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) in the second half of 2011 was an opportunity to emphasize the priorities and main direction of our counter-terrorism policy. Let me briefly acquaint the Assembly with some key issues Poland has focused on.

The Polish presidency coincided with the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001. Poland successfully guided the drafting of conclusions on EU counter-terrorism achievements, which were adopted on 12 September 2011. Poland also raised the issue of ensuring aviation security as part of the integrated border security system against terrorism. In the light of the threats posed by various terrorist organizations, we are all obliged to intensify efforts in this domain.

Poland also raised the question of the protection of mass sports events from terrorist attack. Every mass sports event with an international dimension requires careful counter-terrorism preparations, including strategic planning, threat analysis and risk assessment. We have consistently been developing our counter-terrorism cooperation with neighbouring countries. We have worked closely with the Visegrad Group countries and the Baltic countries. We also attach great importance to cooperation with our Eastern European partners.

The balanced and comprehensive implementation of the Strategy by all regional stakeholders will determine the success of counter-terrorism efforts. The adoption in November 2011 of the joint action plan for Central Asia puts the Strategy into practice. Poland is of the view that this example should be duplicated in other regions, and encourages the development of other regional action plans.

The creation of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) gives new opportunities to enforce international counter-terrorism measures. We hope that GCTF will strengthen cooperation with non-member States for that purpose.

Attempts by non-State actors to produce or acquire chemical or biological agents to be used as weapons remain a threat to the international community. Countering this effectively requires a holistic approach that recognizes the need to develop appropriate and effective national and international regulatory mechanisms. In this context, we highly appreciate the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force report on inter-agency coordination in the event of a terrorist

attack using chemical or biological weapons and materials, presented in November 2011.

Poland is convinced that the United Nations should serve as a forum in which to discuss and upgrade the implementation of the international norms against weapons of mass destruction and terrorism. For this purpose, we strongly support the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004). Next month in Warsaw, we will be hosting a regional workshop on strengthening the implementation of that instrument.

The terrorist threat remains the key challenge facing the international community. The United Nations, at the same time, remains a unique structure able to deal with all of those challenges. Practical cooperation aimed at the implementation of all pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is therefore a must for all Member States. We are truly convinced that this aim will be easier to realize once the United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator is nominated. Poland stands ready to actively and pragmatically engage in discussions on that matter.

Mrs. Morgan (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, allow me to pay tribute to Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, for having facilitated the draft resolution we will be adopting during this review (A/66/L.53).

Mexico attaches great importance to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its action plan. Its legitimacy is based on the added value of its multidimensional nature, which catalyses the synergies of all the concerned stakeholders. The Strategy is the voice of the international community, condemning international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Six years after its establishment, we can see that it is indeed a milestone in this area.

Mexico believes it is extremely important that the Strategy take a broad and holistic approach that promotes communication and coherence within the United Nations system and outside of it through regional machinery. We therefore support the Secretary-General's proposal to appoint a single coordinator on this issue. We will follow closely and actively any future discussions undertaken by Member States on that matter.

Thanks to the strengthening of the fight against terrorism, today we have better tools to create and strengthen environments where there is greater understanding, prevention and response capacity to meet the challenges posed to international security. Mexico believes it crucial to promote the exchange of intelligence information at the different levels of government within a country and at the regional and international levels in order to encourage a preventive and multidimensional approach that permits coordinated action and the exchange of best practices. These are fundamental tools for strengthening the rule of law, protecting the human rights of the victims of terrorism, and identifying new threats and risks to international peace and security.

Mexico acknowledges that the Global Strategy has helped to reconcile and balance points of view between security interests and the need to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms. Appointing an Ombudsperson for the de-listing of persons and entities subject to sanctions on the consolidated list of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) concerning Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities is a successful example of that. The Ombudsperson, as guarantor of the right to due process, is one aspect of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms that must be strengthened in order to preserve the rule of law at the international level.

In the opinion of my delegation, the remaining challenges we face in putting an end to the scourge of international terrorism include the financing of terrorism, cyberthreats, the use of dual-purpose nuclear material and the ongoing relationship, in some cases and under certain circumstances, between terrorism and other manifestations of organized transnational crime. Mexico believes that strengthening the national capacities of Member States in those areas is crucial to combating terrorism. Mexico therefore attaches particular importance to developing a policy that, on the basis of the recommendations of the specialized agencies, would promote an integrated approach to meeting the needs of Member States in combating international terrorism.

Consistent with our commitment to fighting terrorism, my Government issued an invitation to the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, which visited Mexico to review jointly with the Mexican authorities all of the measures taken by Mexico in the fight against terrorism with a view to strengthening those areas that needed it and to identifying successes and best practices where Mexico could offer cooperation and assistance to other countries.

Mexico will continue supporting measures taken here to put an end to terrorism. We will continue to encourage dialogue, cooperation, the promotion of the rule of law and respect for international law and human rights as we combat terrorism. We believe that the scourge of terrorism cannot be linked to any religion, nationality or civilization, while keeping in mind that respecting each others' differences is essential to living together as human beings.

Mr. Aljadey (Libya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the report before us (A/66/762). I would also like to thank the delegation of Canada for its tremendous efforts in coordinating the draft resolution under consideration today (A/66/L.53).

My country supports the statement made on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

For many years now, the international community has sought to reduce the dangers posed by terrorism and to combat its root causes. Many international efforts have been undertaken in the General Assembly, the Security Council, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and in other regional instances. Our meeting today is an extension of and complement to those efforts. However, questions remain. Is terrorism finished? Have its root causes been eliminated? Those questions strongly impose themselves on the international community today, and we know the answers.

Terrorism is not finished; it has sharply increased and its causes have become many. Have our efforts therefore been a failure or insufficient? Perhaps it is the means of treating the problem that have been ineffective. Intense international action is very important and much needed, but we must always assess such efforts and point out their successes and failures. What are the gaps and shortcomings that need to be filled? What are the problems that need to be dealt with?

Today's discussion is a historic opportunity to listen to one another, make use of the different viewpoints, review the mechanisms in the fight and hear the concerns of the specialized agencies so that we can have a close look at the points of failure, deal with them and improve the situation.

The most recent report of the Secretary-General has many elements and suggests many important steps that need further discussion so that the suitable machinery can be found to undertake international efforts in the field.

Following a people's revolution against a dictatorial regime, Libya, after having been a source of concern and instability to many for decades, has managed to extract itself from a difficult situation and has worked to establish itself as a peaceful, secure and prosperous democratic State that is a pillar of stability and peace in the region and the world. The Al-Qadhafi regime recruited thousands of foreigners to work in its security brigades as mercenaries and gave them weapons to quell our popular revolution. After the fall of the regime, those mercenaries returned to their countries with all their weapons. They have now started to threaten security of countries throughout the region by rebelling against central authorities and cooperating with terrorist organizations in the Sahel and the Sahara. They have become involved in transnational organized crime by smuggling weapons and drugs and by encouraging illegal migration.

There is no doubt that the absence of a State with institutions and the rule of law, which existed for many decades under the Al-Qadhafi regime, is still a source of concern. The Libyan Government is trying to establish institutions, impose the rule of law and prevent impunity. Much has been accomplished. We hope that our work will continue after the elections scheduled for 7 July to choose members of a public national conference and adopt a permanent constitution for the country.

Despite the repercussions and developments that took place in my country after the fall of the previous regime and the spread of weapons, we believe that democracy, good governance and the establishment of the rule of law and national reconciliation are the basic elements needed to achieve development, security and stability and to eliminate the sources of violence and terrorism. Libya will spare no effort in continuing to fulfil its commitments in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

That is why we convened a regional ministerial conference on border security, held in Tripoli on 11 and 12 March, which resulted in the Tripoli plan of action and the adoption of concrete measures on border control designed to combat organized crime, drug and arms trafficking, terrorism and illegal immigration.

There is no doubt that cooperation among the countries of the region is the cornerstone of any international effort to combat terrorism. Libya will

continue to cooperate with all countries in order to stand against terrorism and eliminate its causes.

Mr. Wang Min (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his briefing. I take this opportunity to thank the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Canada, the facilitator of the third biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, for his work.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represents the broadest consensus reached by Member States in the area of counter terrorism and is of great significance. This year marks the third review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The international community has made many efforts to fight terrorism. However, terrorism is far from being eliminated and still threatens international peace and security.

Terrorism has evolved in its forms and manifestations. With regard to how to further implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and continuously strengthen counter-terrorism and international cooperation, I would like to emphasize the following four points.

First, China supports the comprehensive implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In fighting terrorism, it is necessary to treat the symptoms, seek cures and adopt a comprehensive strategy. Eliminating the huge gaps between rich and poor and social injustice; properly resolving regional conflicts; and stopping the spread of separatism, extremism, violence, hatred and intolerance are of great significance in fighting terrorism. China hopes that the international community will pay more attention to resolving the root causes of terrorism and implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

Secondly, China supports the United Nations agencies in pursuing a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and strengthening coordination and cooperation, in accordance with their mandates. We support the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's coordinating role in that regard, and welcome the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. The Security Council's subsidiary bodies can actively participate in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within their mandates. We note the proposal of the Secretary-General on the appointment of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. The Member States should continue their consultations on that issue.

Thirdly, in fighting terrorism, it is necessary to uphold the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of international law, and to respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Member States. Member States should renounce double standards in fighting terrorism. The international community should oppose any incitement of or support for terrorism. Regardless of where and when terrorist activities take place, what means are used to carry them out, who the terrorists are and what their motives are, we should clearly oppose and fight them. No country should adopt a different stance out of self-interest or protect or tolerate terrorism based on political considerations.

Fourthly, when fighting terrorism, it is necessary to maintain dialogue among civilizations and to promote understanding and tolerance. In international cooperation on fighting terrorism, it is necessary to advocate dialogue, understanding, exchanges, mutual respect and harmony among civilizations, religions and ethnic groups. We oppose associating terrorism with any particular ethnic group or religion.

China is a victim of terrorism and is under threat of terrorist activities carried out by terrorist forces in eastern Turkistan, international terrorist organizations, and domestic and foreign terrorists. China will continue adamantly to fight terrorism in its various forms, ensure national security, protect lives and property, and maintain and protect human rights.

China will continue to actively implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and join in international cooperation within the framework of the United Nations. China is willing to join the relevant countries in strengthening exchanges and cooperation in counter-terrorism legislation, law enforcement, information-sharing, the interception of financing, extradition and the repatriation of terrorist suspects to contain and fight terrorism.

Mr. Lindenmann (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, we thank the Secretary-General and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for this year's report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762).

The challenges are manifold. Terrorists continue to attack our societies and our values. They use modern technology and wage aggressive campaigns. In response, we must be vigilant and determined, but, above all, we must also understand that terrorism cannot be defeated

by security measures alone. The United Nations Strategy clearly indicates that addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, building State capacities and respecting human rights and the rule of law are equally important. There should also be an increasing focus on the victims and their grievances and needs. We thank the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism for his useful report on this matter (A/66/310).

The Strategy identifies a balanced, integrated and holistic approach that should be reflected in institutional mechanisms. At the national level, inter-agency coordination has largely become a reality. For example, in Switzerland, some 30 agencies meet regularly to discuss issues relating to counter-terrorism. Within the United Nations, a similar trend can be discerned. A growing number of entities have joined the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We welcome that cooperative approach, which is in line with the One United Nations initiative.

The draft resolution (A/66/L.53) that we are about to adopt on the Strategy reflects the constructive atmosphere during the negotiations. In that regard, we commend the Canadian facilitators for their skill. The draft resolution recognizes that the principal responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy lies with the States. Switzerland tries to live up to that task at home and by supporting a number of projects abroad. As part of its support for Arab Spring countries, Switzerland earmarked funds for the building of rule-of-law structures, for reforming and building the capacity of the security and military sectors, for the protection of human rights and for strengthening pluralistic societies. Switzerland also sponsors three Security Council initiatives in the area of terrorist financing.

In addition, Switzerland is co-sponsoring a Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force initiative on implementing the Strategy at the regional level. Four meetings have so far been held in Indonesia, Ethiopia, Namibia and Bangladesh, with another to take place soon in West Africa. In 2009, as a forerunner to the regional initiatives I have just mentioned, Switzerland, together with a group of other States and in close cooperation with various United Nations entities, organized in Vienna the first International Workshop for National Counter-Terrorism Focal Points. We are currently looking into the feasibility of organizing a follow-up conference next year.

We eagerly await the discussion on the establishment of the post of United Nations Counter-Terrorism coordinator. The United Nations stands to gain much by doing so. The recent report of the Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation on the reshaping of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts also strongly recommends the creation of such a post. Improved coordination within the Organization would enhance the effectiveness and coherence of the fight against terrorism. Externally, the coordinator would give the United Nations a face and a voice, boosting the Organization's visibility by showing that it presents a unified and strong front in the fight against terrorism.

Switzerland appreciates the fact that civil society has again been encouraged to participate in the implementation of the Strategy in the draft resolution. We also believe that this works both ways. Not only should civil society be encouraged to engage in United Nations efforts, but the United Nations should also be encouraged to engage more closely with civil society. States will not be able to defeat terrorism by themselves; they will need the support of their societies to do so. Civil society can act as a multiplier in this sense.

Switzerland would like to express its appreciation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its generous contribution to the new United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. As a member of the Centre's Advisory Board, Switzerland will work towards a balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy. We also believe that a civil society advisory committee should be created within the Centre, as it could serve as a source of expertise and a sounding board on policy and programming issues.

The United Nations should work in partnership with all stakeholders. In this regard, the Global Counterterrorism Forum has appeared as a new actor on the scene. As a member of both the United Nations and the Forum, Switzerland has a strong interest in both organizations working hand in hand in a complementary and mutually supportive manner. In February 2012, Switzerland organized a conference in Interlaken, attended by the members of the Forum, eight United Nations entities and eight regional organizations, with a view to strengthening the relationship between these actors. Switzerland is indeed convinced that cooperation is more than ever needed in the fight against terrorism, and I would assure you, Sir, of our readiness and full commitment in this matter.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): As we gather here today to renew once again our commitment to

the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the incidents of terrorism this month alone — in Nigeria, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia, Israel and elsewhere — remind us that no country is immune from the threat of terrorism and that no single country can address it on its own.

The United States support for the Strategy and the collaborative and long-term strategic approach it embodies is unwavering. This body's adoption of the document (resolution 60/288) almost six years ago marked the first time that all Member States agreed on a common, comprehensive counter-terrorism strategy.

In recent years, with the United Nations playing a central role, the international community has made important strides in the fight against violent extremism. Together, we have worked to disrupt terrorist financing, enact more effective counter-terrorism laws, tighten border, aviation and maritime security, improve coordination, and raise awareness of the importance of the Strategy. Over the past decade, more than 120,000 suspected terrorists have been arrested around the world, and more than 35,000 have been convicted. Just last week, an Indonesian court sentenced Umar Patek to 20 years in prison for his role in several terrorist acts, including the twin nightclub bombings in Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people.

Despite this progress, the danger from terrorism remains urgent and undeniable. The core of Al-Qaida that carried out the 9/11 attacks and other attacks around the world may be on the path to defeat, but the threat has become more geographically diffuse as groups associated with Al-Qaida expand their operations. Terrorists now hold territory in Mali, Somalia and Yemen, and they are carrying out frequent and destabilizing attacks in Nigeria and the Maghreb.

These developments, which underscore the resilience of terrorist networks and the violent ideology that underpins them, mean that we must redouble our collective efforts to combat terrorism and undermine the appeal of the extremist narrative.

We have a lot of work in front of us that we need to undertake together. The Strategy, with its emphasis on diminishing the economic, political and social drivers of violent extremism that often fuel recruitment and on strengthening criminal justice and other civilian institutions to enable countries to deal with terrorist threats within a rule-of-law framework, offers the right policy framework to underpin our collective work.

Since the General Assembly's most recent review of the Strategy in September 2010, the United States has redoubled its efforts to support implementation around the globe. This includes supporting the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its entities as they work with countries on such issues as border security, terror finance, prosecutions, judicial cooperation and victims to provide them with the tools to better implement the Strategy.

We are particularly pleased to be able to provide funding to allow the United Nations to develop two innovative projects. One will allow the United Nations, for the first time, to deliver counter-terrorism-related human rights training to law enforcement officials in key regions around the globe. The other will allow the United Nations to work with prison officials to develop rule-of-law-based programmes aimed at rehabilitating violent extremists.

In addition to our direct support to the United Nations, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which we are honoured to co-chair, is mobilizing new resources and expertise to catalyse national and regional efforts to implement the Strategy.

We encourage the United Nations to build upon its contributions to the global counter-terrorism effort. This includes the recent establishment of the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism within the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which will offer the CTITF additional resources to support Member States' efforts to implement the Strategy.

With the continued expansion of the United Nations counter-terrorism system, we are particularly pleased that the Secretary-General has proposed creating the post of United Nations Counter-Terrorism coordinator to further unify the United Nations counter-terrorism architecture. The United States looks forward to working together in common cause within the General Assembly to operationalize this proposal in the months ahead and, with the broader international community, to prevent and combat terrorism wherever and in whatever form it occurs.

Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan): I would like to begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation for the third review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We commend the immaculate manner in which Ambassador Rishchynski of Canada and his team at the Canadian Mission led the review process.

Afghanistan aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Almost half a decade has passed since the General Assembly's adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288). The milestone event was a demonstration of collective international commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. That commitment was founded on the clear reality that this global menace spares no nationality, ethnicity, religion or region. We have seen it strike in all parts of the world, from South and Central Asia to the Western Hemisphere, and from Africa to the Middle East.

Recent years have seen noticeable progress in the context of United Nations implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and international levels. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has convened a number of important initiatives, including regional workshops in various parts of the world, such as those that have been held in southern and eastern Africa, and in South and Central Asia. In June of last year, the CTITF partnered with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia and the European Union to initiate a project that culminated in the adoption of a joint plan of action by Central Asian States for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Widespread implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has yet to take place, and remains a challenge to many. Factors contributing to that have included a lack of coherence among the relevant United Nations agencies in dealing with terrorism and overlaps in their activities, which too often have resulted in misunderstandings on the part of Member States about whom to contact when they need technical assistance. In that context, we welcome the recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's report (A/66/762), including the proposal for creating the post of counter-terrorism coordinator for increasing the coordination and coherence of United Nations counter-terrorism activities.

The establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre is an important development in strengthening the global fight against terrorism. We are confident that, within the framework of the CTITF, the Centre will make an important contribution to fostering counter-terrorism cooperation and building States' capacity, two issues that are vital for real and substantial progress in the fight against terrorism. We express our appreciation to His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their efforts in making the Centre a reality.

My country, Afghanistan, has long been the number-one victim of terrorism. Each and every day, Afghan men, women and children wake up with the fear that another brutal act of terror will occur, killing or maiming another family member or fellow citizen. Terror and violence committed by Afghanistan's enemies continue through suicide and roadside bombings, and attacks on our clinics and schools and some of our patriotic national figures, who have served their country with honour and dignity in the cause of a prosperous Afghanistan. In that regard, regional cooperation is vital to a successful fight against terrorism. The regional dynamics of the terrorist threat facing Afghanistan are such that if we do not address the continuing presence of terrorist safe havens and sanctuaries in our immediate region, we will not achieve durable peace and stability.

Over the past decade, together with our international partners we have significantly weakened the overall capabilities of the terrorist networks. As a result of our counter-terrorism endeavours, the brutal efforts of a considerable number of terrorists have been curtailed; some have been captured, while others are being pursued. Our State institutions have thwarted a substantial number of terrorist plots across the country. Consistent with the process of transition, the Afghan National Army and Police are assuming a greater role in all security activities across the country, including counter-terrorism operations. Our counter-terrorism policies are a key part of our overall national security strategy. To that effect, we have further strengthened our counter-terrorism legal framework. Afghanistan is party to 13 international conventions and protocols concerning terrorism, and we have adopted a multitude of laws aimed at combating terrorism and other forms of organized crime. They include laws on combating terrorism financing, terrorist offences and money-laundering.

At the regional level, we are intensifying cooperation and dialogue with regional partners through bilateral, trilateral and multilateral regional processes designed to deal effectively with the problems of terrorism and extremism in all their forms and manifestations. Most recently, on 14 June we convened the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Kabul, where Afghanistan and its regional partners reaffirmed

their commitment to ensuring peace and prosperity in Afghanistan and our region by implementing a broad set of confidence-building measures, which include counter-terrorism cooperation.

As a country that has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism, Afghanistan has suffered immensely in terms of human and material loss. A significantly high number of Afghans, including civilians, tribal and religious figures, law enforcement personnel and Government officials, as well as some of our renowned national figures, have lost their lives in the struggle against terrorism. Only last weekend, the Taliban brutally attacked a hotel near Kabul and massacred 20 civilians in cold blood. Such attacks will not undermine our commitment to peace and security. We will remain as resolute as ever in our fight against terrorism and in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Ruiz (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would first like to thank the President for having organized this meeting on the third biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In my country's view, the Strategy, besides reflecting a consensus among all Member States, is an effective tool for preventing, punishing and eliminating this scourge. We believe that the four pillars developed in the action plan should be fully implemented. We do not believe that there is a hierarchy among them, and we affirm our commitment to their comprehensive and effective implementation.

Terrorism is a threat to international peace and security, and affects society as a whole, the rule of law and the enjoyment of human rights. The human costs of terrorism are felt all over the world. That is why the international community must tackle this many-headed threat in a coordinated way and in all its stages and manifestations. My country condemns it in all its forms and manifestations, and reaffirms that there is no motive or circumstance that can be invoked to justify it. It not only runs counter to and undermines the fundamental principles and mechanisms of international law and the international community's shared values, but also creates fear within our societies and has a negative impact on development.

Because terrorism is a phenomenon with global implications, the United Nations, and particularly the General Assembly as the Organization's organ of universal membership, must be the main forum for agreeing on policies and cooperation. Under the Global Strategy, we must promote and strengthen international and regional cooperation as a crucial element in confronting the threat in an effective, balanced and integrated way.

The adoption, implementation and promotion of cooperation frameworks are an effective response to terrorism. Colombia participates actively in various different bodies for regional and multilateral cooperation. In addition to the United Nations, we have been working with the Organization of American States, the Global Counterterrorism Forum, countries of Central America and the Caribbean, and more recently with African countries, to share our experiences and build capacity that help to combat all forms of transnational crime that are in one way or another linked to terrorism.

We believe it necessary to reach agreement on how to deal with the close connection between terrorism and transnational organized crime. We must coordinate regional and multilateral initiatives and strategies that incorporate elements of instruments addressing transnational organized crime in order to prevent terrorist networks from using financial and logistic resources that help them to operate.

Accordingly, we welcome the fact that the draft resolution that we will adopt on this review (A/66/L.53) acknowledges the need to continue taking steps to prevent and end the financing of terrorism. It encourages United Nations entities to cooperate with Member States in order to help them to fully comply with their international obligations in the fight against the financing of terrorism. By its very nature, the financing of terrorism is a factor concerning which the international community will have to take more effective measures. Funds derived from criminal activities create new scenarios in which States must work together to design strategies with a comprehensive view that allows us to face terrorism in all its dimensions and complexity.

Protecting and supporting victims of terrorism is another matter of special concern to my delegation. We have made great progress in that area since the Strategy was adopted. We take this opportunity to express our solidarity with victims. We not only acknowledge the work and efforts undertaken by the competent bodies and entities in the United Nations to recognize, support and protect the rights of victims of terrorism, but we would urge those bodies to work even harder to provide technical assistance in order to enhance States' capacity

to draw up and implement programmes of assistance and support to victims.

My country has participated in and sponsored many initiatives developed by the Organization, particularly the publication of the manual entitled "The Criminal Justice Response to Support Victims of Acts of Terrorism", which was drafted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The manual is a concrete measure for protecting and promoting the rights of victims and the recognition thereof. We trust that it will serve as a basis for activities undertaken by the Organization and that it will help Member States to build capacity to ensure that the voice of victims is heard during criminal trials.

I cannot fail to mention another important point made in the draft resolution, namely, the recommendation by the Secretary-General that the Member States appoint a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. We firmly believe that it is necessary to continue working to avoid duplication of effort and promote better and more efficient coordination and coherence in activities within the United Nations and among the Member States and other competent international, regional and subregional organizations involved in the fight against terrorism. Coherence within the United Nations system forms the basis of the integrated and effective implementation of the Strategy. We therefore believe that the agreement reached in consultations, and reflected in paragraph 15 of the draft resolution before us, takes note of the status of the proposal, and specifically that it remains a matter for discussion and decision in the General Assembly.

Nevertheless, the fact that the discussion on this subject remains open is a further reason for all Member States to continue supporting the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which was established to ensure coordination and coherence of actions within the United Nations system to address the international scourge, while fully respecting and advancing the principles and purposes of the Charter.

My country confirms its commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the Global Strategy. Accordingly, we will continue to offer cooperation and share our experiences. In conclusion, I pay tribute to the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, and his team for their work in facilitating the draft resolution submitted for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Mr. Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran): My country aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. My delegation also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/762), which contains an update on measures taken to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within the past two years.

We firmly believe that the Strategy should be implemented in a balanced way under the auspices of the General Assembly as the only United Nations organ with universal membership. In that regard, we highly encourage the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to better interact with all Member States on a regular basis in order to gain more support in the overall implementation of the Strategy and to strengthen the sense of ownership among all Members.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been a victim of terrorism for decades and is still suffering from terrorist attacks in different forms and manifestations, including State terrorism. As a target of terrorism sponsored by certain States, we fully understand the untold consequences of acts of terrorism for victims and for society at large. We hold in high regard the large number of Iranian victims of terrorism in numerous terrorist incidents, and the Government has taken all possible measures to address their concerns properly. The victims are the best evidence of failed policies of terrorist groups and those who support them.

Just a few months ago, on 11 January 2012, a professional Iranian scientist, the late Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, fell victim to a terrorist attack in Tehran. The victim was a chemical engineer and had served as deputy director of a nuclear industry facility in Iran. In the incident, two other innocent people were seriously injured, one of whom died later in a hospital as a result of his wounds. It was not the first time that an Iranian scientist had come under malicious terrorist attack. Such crimes have been committed on several occasions by the true sponsors of State terrorism as a means to serve their political purposes. However, it is regrettable that such horrific terrorist incidents have seen little reaction from those who are obligated to take all possible measures to combat terrorism.

The case just mentioned is among one of the clearest examples of our main challenge in countering terrorism — double standards and the simple-minded categorization of good and bad types of terrorism on the basis of immediate political interests. Selective or

double-standard approaches in dealing with terrorism should be firmly rejected, and we should point out that such approaches could undermine international trust and cooperation in countering terrorism. The international community must work towards achieving a unified approach to fighting this scourge without discrimination. That is indeed key to promoting the fight against terrorism worldwide.

It is very disturbing that, despite continuing efforts on various fronts, the threat of terrorism continues to affect our societies and we still seem to be far from eliminating it. For decades, a number of root causes and factors have led or contributed to the spread of terrorism, including, to name a few, the unlawful use of force by some States and foreign aggression and occupation, as well as foreign interference and meddling in other States' internal affairs. Unlawful occupation and use of force, as well as the use of excessive or disproportionate military force in the name of combating terrorists, prepares the ground for vicious cycles of violence and terrorism.

I emphasize that terrorism should not be equated with the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination and national liberation from colonial or alien domination and foreign occupation. The brutalization of peoples under foreign occupation should always be denounced as the worst form of terrorism, and the use of State power to suppress and attack those struggling against foreign occupation and exercising their inalienable right to self-determination must be condemned. To that end, my delegation is anxious to see greater attention given to this aspect and the most effective measures possible taken under pillar I. Moreover, the fight against terrorism should not be misused in order to advance other agendas. We believe that it should be undertaken in full conformity with the United Nations Charter, international law and international human rights and humanitarian law. The rule of law and respect for civilians' rights and humanitarian law should be our guiding principles in fighting terrorism, as is appropriately emphasized under pillar IV of the Strategy.

Iran is committed to using all possible means to fight terrorism and to strengthen international cooperation to that end. In that regard, I recall the International Conference on the Global Fight Against Terrorism that was held in Tehran just at this time last year, with the participation of high-level delegations from more than 70 States and international and regional organizations, as well as prominent experts from all over the world. The purpose of the Tehran Conference was to exchange views on the global fight against terrorism and to find practical ways to further mobilize political will and strengthen international capacities to combat terrorism at the national and international levels. The Conference welcomed all initiatives seeking to promote dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions. The greater the consensus on the various aspects of terrorism, the better will be the results we can achieve from our joint efforts.

Having successfully accomplished the third biennial review of the Strategy in the past few days, we must pursue our national, regional and global plans with determination in order to achieve comprehensive implementation of the Strategy in a balanced manner, with universal cooperation and adequate attention to dealing with conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, and by avoiding double standards and discrimination so as to gain better, lasting results.

Mr. Tarar (Pakistan): We are deeply appreciative of the efforts made by the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, facilitator of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy review consultations, towards a consensus resolution on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The delegation of Pakistan associates itself with the statement made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Pakistan unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever, wherever and against whomsoever. We also condemn the murder of civilians anywhere in the world, whether it is motivated by ideological differences or the use of disproportionate force against soft targets. Terrorism and extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnicity, faith, value system, culture or society.

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to strengthening international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Coherence and coordination are essential to the success of that fight. Accordingly, Pakistan supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a balanced implementation of it that addresses the root causes of terrorism, including prolonged unresolved conflicts, the unlawful use of force, aggression, foreign occupation, denial of the right of peoples living under foreign occupation to self-determination, political

and economic injustices, political marginalization and alienation.

The promotion of international cooperation in combating terrorism is a noble goal. Pakistan has complied highly responsibly with its international obligations, particularly its commitment to implementing various conventions on counter-terrorism. We have ratified 10 of 13 United Nations conventions relating to terrorism, and we are also a signatory to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Pakistan has become a party to the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and has enacted a landmark anti-money-laundering bill. A financial monitoring unit has been established within the State Bank of Pakistan to monitor suspicious financial transactions. Recently, 64 additional bank accounts and 750.8 million Pakistani rupees have been frozen. We cooperate consistently with friends and allies in implementing all four pillars of the Strategy. Pakistan has deployed 160,000 troops on its border with Afghanistan and has set up 822 border posts to interdict Al-Qaida and Taliban members.

Countering terrorism requires a coordinated and cooperative regional and international approach that rises above polemics and blame games. In the six years since the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288), we have realized that the Strategy will be of little value in itself unless it is implemented in all its aspects. We are of the view that the implementation of the Strategy in the following areas would redound to the benefit of the third review.

First, one pillar of the Strategy underlines the need for settling prolonged unresolved conflicts. Addressing festering disputes would go a long way towards increasing the effectiveness of counter-terrorism efforts. Secondly, the Strategy addresses the problem of defamation of religion. Such bigotry plays into the hands of terrorists while exacerbating intra- and inter-State differences. In today's globalized world, the need for understanding, harmony and bridge-building among all cultures and peoples is greater than ever. Thirdly, the Strategy also addresses the need to promote economic and social development in order to help curb extremism and terrorism. Socio-economic marginalization is a leading cause of terrorism's appeal. The international community should make the balanced socio-economic development of regions vulnerable to terrorism a high priority.

Pakistan sees the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars as a work in progress. The Strategy must be updated and revised substantively and regularly in the light of new developments. For instance, it is a deficiency that the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the review takes no note of the emerging trend of homegrown radicals who are misled by propaganda facilitated by information and communication technology advances.

The consensus draft resolution on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy highlights the need to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights and the observance of the rule of law while countering terrorism. The rule of law is indeed an antidote to terrorism, provided that it is observed ungrudgingly at both the national and international levels. The fair prosecution and conviction of terrorists in courts of law would be more effective than eliminating them by extrajudicial means. Such a cavalier approach to human life only feeds extremism.

We would also like to express our support for continuing efforts to reform the proceedings of Security Council Committees so as to ensure due process and the promotion of transparency. We welcome the recent efforts made by the Council in that regard. We expect that the process of reform will continue in the interests of further improvement of procedures.

The United Nations has a special role in promoting international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. The Organization and its counter-terrorism bodies need inter-agency coordination, policy coherence and closer cooperation with each other. We note that in his report (A/66/762), the Secretary-General has proposed the creation of the position of a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. We believe that the modalities for carrying out the proposal need further elaboration and due deliberation by Member States on various aspects. While supporting the institutional coherence of the United Nations, we also emphasize the importance of respecting the mandates of its various bodies.

Mr. Rakhmetullin (Kazakhstan): Kazakhstan aligns itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

I would first like to thank you, Sir, for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of

Canada, for his work as coordinator of the informal consultations on this important issue.

We believe that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has been, over the years, a valuable framework and policy guide for concerted multilateral action in fighting all forms of terrorism, with the United Nations playing a central role within it. In that context, my delegation would like to outline the experience gained and counter-terrorism measures undertaken by Kazakhstan both internally and within the framework of regional structures.

Kazakhstan has been guided by the Strategy and by the 14 international instruments that it has ratified. At the present time, the national procedures for ratifying two more protocols and amendments have been completed, along with the establishment of a unified Statewide anti-terrorism policy and legislation covering all aspects of counter-terrorism. Kazakhstan's basic provisions, regulations and mechanisms are formulated to comply with international law and the recommendations of the United Nations and the Security Council, particularly in the area of combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorist organizations. Our main national strategy is thus directed at eliminating the causes of terrorism and detecting threats and incidences of it in a timely manner.

As a country that voluntarily renounced possession of one-fourth of the world's nuclear arsenal, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to implementing measures to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction into the hands of terrorists. After the President of Kazakhstan initiated this policy at the Global Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, D.C., in 2010, we followed it up with a Conference of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism aimed at counteracting terrorist financing, which was held in Astana in 2011, as was the first meeting of the Implementation and Assessment Group was held in Astana in 2011. That same year, we carried out the removal of our nuclear materials to safe and secure storage, in accordance with international standards, with the direct assistance of the United States. That operation is ample proof of the importance of close cooperation at the subregional, regional and international levels in combating terrorism.

Kazakhstan, as an active member of the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), has signed the SCO Convention against Terrorism and all agreements on combating the illicit trafficking of arms, ammunition and explosives.

We believe that one important step in strengthening the provisions of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was the adoption, in Ashgabat on 30 November, of the joint action plan for implementation of the Strategy in Central Asia. The plan was formulated by several partners, including the countries of the region, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the European Union and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. In June, a meeting with regional organizations was held in Almaty to consult on execution of the Strategy in Central Asia, supported by the Government of Kazakhstan in partnership with various regional organizations.

As the 2010 Chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Kazakhstan, in accordance with the OSCE's military-political mandates, hosted a conference in Astana on the prevention of terrorism. The Conference adopted the Astana Declaration, affirming the commitment of participating OSCE States and partner countries to combating terrorism. Counter-terrorist activities are also on the agenda of cooperative activities between Kazakhstan and the European Union. Kazakhstan is also a participant in the Individual Partnership Action Plan with NATO, thus expanding its collaboration with the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council.

We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and are ready to cooperate with it. We also support the Secretary-General's proposal for appointing a coordinator for counter-terrorism in order to help strengthen and improve coordination of the various entities within the United Nations. Similarly, we welcome the Secretary-General's report (A/66/762) on United Nations activities aimed at implementing the Strategy, particularly those of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

We join with other countries that have expressed concern about the tendency for terrorism to merge with organized crime. While they are undoubtedly interconnected, a primary and independent focus should be placed on eliminating drug trafficking, a source of much financing of terrorism. The Republic of Kazakhstan has always stood for strengthening the national capacities of Member States to address drug trafficking through regional and international cooperation. We are confident that constructive cooperation among Member

States will considerably enhance national, regional and international security so that we can combat the ever-growing scourge of terrorism more effectively.

Mr. Shin Dong Ik (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to you, Sir, for convening this important meeting to assess the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since its second biennial review in 2010. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the hard work of Ambassador Rishchynski, who has led this review process and worked diligently to prepare the draft resolution (A/66/L.53).

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in September 2006 (resolution 60/288), has provided a solid foundation for the international community's efforts to establish comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism activities. In addition, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has intensified its multilateral efforts to enhance coordination and cooperation with entities within the United Nations system as well as with Member States. Currently, a range of efforts is being pursued, including easing socio-economic marginalization, promoting dialogue among civilizations and integrating ethnic and religious minorities.

Convinced of the need for comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism efforts, the Republic of Korea is actively participating in international cooperation efforts and is strengthening domestic measures to counter terrorism at the national level. My delegation also believes that an effective counter-terrorism approach should address all aspects of terrorism, including denying terrorists access to weapons, especially weapons of mass destruction (WMD), suppressing the financing of terrorism, and strengthening law enforcement and State capacity-building.

With globalization, the proliferation of WMD and an increased risk of terrorist attacks involving WMD have come to the fore as a grave threat to the security of all countries. As a signatory to all key international conventions related to non-proliferation and counter-terrorism regimes, the Republic of Korea has been playing its part to contribute to such global efforts. In this regard, the Republic of Korea hosted the 2011 plenary of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism and the Nuclear Security Summit in Seoul in March of this year. At the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, the Republic of Korea was joined by a host of countries in underscoring the centrality of international cooperation in detecting, tracking and responding to illicit trafficking of nuclear materials. That was embodied in the Seoul communiqué adopted as a Summit declaration.

My delegation believes that effective financial measures can greatly contribute to the unravelling of the complex matrix of proliferation and interrelated terrorism networks. Efforts to address proliferation financing will also complement our efforts in countering terrorism, which would strengthen our overall counter-terrorism capacities. It is in that light that the Republic of Korea hosted a proliferation financing conference last May to emphasize the importance of coordinated action and to stimulate new thinking and creative policy options in that emerging field. The conference offered an invaluable opportunity to learn from each other's expertise and experience at the national level, and provided a timely forum to discuss how we can scale up our individual and collective capabilities in countering proliferation financing.

The Republic of Korea has made efforts to help other Member States to build and enhance their counter-terrorism capacities through various assistance programmes. We will continue to support critical international efforts, such as poverty reduction, disease control, human resources development and sustainable development, which can be valuable to the efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and insecurity.

In the area of capacity-building, the Republic of Korea has been extending assistance both bilaterally and multilaterally to improve the capacity of countries to combat terrorism in a wide range of areas. One example is our assistance of $36 million for the Afghan National Army trust fund. In addition, we have provided technical training and equipment to South-East Asian countries in cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with a view towards combating terrorism and eradicating drugs. We are also making preparations to establish, with ASEAN, the Asia-Pacific information and coordination centre for combating drug crimes in the near future.

Standing united in the goal of ensuring peace and security for the world, the Republic of Korea would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm its strong commitment to combating terrorism and ensuring a safe and secure world for tomorrow's generations.

Mr. Prosor (Israel): At the outset, let me thank you, Sir, for convening this review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to commend Canada's Permanent Representative, Ambassador Rishchynski, and his team for skilfully facilitating the negotiations of the draft resolution of the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/L.53). I would also like to express Israel's deep appreciation to the many individuals inside the United Nations who work tirelessly to combat terrorism. I know that many of their successes may not rise into the public's radar screen, but let me assure them that they do not go unnoticed.

This forum has a solemn responsibility. We are tasked with producing a clear-eyed assessment of the international community's response to terrorism — perhaps the single greatest threat facing the world today. Several principles should guide this discussion as we evaluate what has been accomplished and where the international community is lagging behind. We cannot substitute words for action and we cannot expect wishful thinking today to prevent devastating consequences tomorrow. One thing is clear. If we do not take the next steps in advancing our collective efforts, the terrorists certainly will.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy provides a basic framework for confronting terrorism. It was carefully crafted to provide a comprehensive plan for addressing the various aspects of terrorism. Israel stands behind that approach. We believe strongly that all four pillars of the Strategy must be implemented with equal determination, as was envisioned when the Strategy was created.

The Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Strategy (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1) offers helpful recommendations for improving the United Nations efficiency on this issue. Israel welcomes the debate on his suggestion to create a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. Such an appointment must be considered carefully, however. We must ensure that it does not duplicate the functions of existing structures and that it translates into genuine improvements on the ground. We should be wary of mistaking process for progress.

Each and every victim of terrorism has a face and a family, a name and a story. They are people like us. In all corners of the world, the voices of the victims should ring louder than the deadly siren songs of terrorists. Israel greatly appreciates the priority that the Secretary-General has placed on victims of terrorism. Victims' stories can help prevent those at risk from joining the ranks of terrorists. They can compel communities to move from indifference to action. The Secretary-General's report notes that a range of United Nations entities are working today to counter radicalization. That is important, but much more must be done.

For years, Israel has warned of the unmistakable link between incitement and terrorism. Terrorism does not begin with an attack on a bus or café. That is how terrorism ends. Terrorism begins with words and thoughts of hatred. Terrorism begins when individuals dehumanize others and glorify martyrs. It begins when the world stands by as extremists create a culture of death. Unfortunately, today, in too many parts of our region, the next generation of children is being taught hatred instead of peace and violence instead of tolerance.

The international community has a very clear duty to prevent this incitement in mosques, schools, in the media and elsewhere. Just as States have an obligation under the Global Strategy to bring terrorists to justice, we must also pursue those who build the foundations of terrorism by teaching children to hate.

States that sponsor terrorism should find no refuge in these halls. One nation stands above all others as an active supporter of terrorism. Iran is the central banker, primary sponsor and chief trainer of terrorists from Bangkok to Baghdad, from the Gaza Strip to the Washington Beltway. Iran sits on Bashar Al-Assad's advisory board, guiding him on how to butcher the Syrian people more effectively. In the civilian villages of southern Lebanon, it has helped the Hizbullah terrorist organization to build up an arsenal of more missiles than are possessed by most conventional armies. In Gaza, it is arming Hamas with the advanced rockets that continue to rain down on Israeli civilians day after day. In the past week alone, more than 125 rockets have been fired into Israeli cities, homes and schools.

On Tuesday, Iran's Vice-President, Mohammad-Reza Rahimi, spoke to senior United Nations officials at an event in Tehran supposedly dedicated to the issue of illicit drug trafficking. He said that the teachings of the Talmud — one of Judaism's holiest books — are responsible for "inciting global drug trade and addiction in a bid to annihilate non-Jewish communities". He added that gynaecologists around the world kill

"black babies" on the orders of the Zionists.Those vile anti-Semitic statements are outrageous. They defame the Jewish faith, the Jewish State and the Jewish people. They should bring immediate condemnation from all corners of the United Nations. I call on all responsible members of the international community to speak out immediately, forcefully and unequivocally against Iranian anti-Semitic statements and hatred.

Some countries represented in this Hall condemn such appalling anti-Semitic rants; there are many more that have failed to do so until now. History shows that words can kill, and there are times when silence is not an option. The international community must send a clear message to Iran and other States that sponsor, incite and support terrorism. We cannot allow them to place deadly tools in the hands of terrorists or offer them safe havens from which to operate. In that regard, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force must intensify its efforts to provide technical assistance and raise awareness at the national level, which allows for the designation of terrorists, terrorist organizations and those who support them. That work is critical to removing any legal void or ambiguity in confronting the plague.

Israel is on the front lines in the fight against terrorism. That is not by choice, but by necessity. Since our inception, we have had to struggle day after day against terrorists who brutally target our civilians, while at the same time acting to preserve our democracy and rule of law. That is a unique challenge. As Israel's Supreme Court wrote in a famous ruling,

> "This is the destiny of democracy, as not all means are acceptable to it, and not all practices employed by its enemies are open before it. Although a democracy must often fight with one hand tied behind its back, it nonetheless has the upper hand."

As a party to the core United Nations conventions on terrorism, Israel has enacted effective legislation to implement its international obligations pursuant to those instruments. We are committed to working at the international, regional and bilateral levels to confront terrorism wherever it rears its head. Over many years, we have developed a unique body of knowledge and capabilities in the field. Through our ongoing technical cooperation and support of projects, including through United Nations agencies, we are sharing our expertise and contributing professionally to global counter-terrorism efforts.

The words spoken here today are only as meaningful as the political will that stands behind them. The Global Strategy can only be as effective as the support that it receives from the nations represented in this Hall. The great threat posed by terrorism calls for more than the international community's best efforts. We have no other choice but to succeed. As Winston Churchill once said, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we must do what is required".

Mr. Langeland (Norway): My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his informative report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including his recommendations on the way forward (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1).

Terrorism cannot be overcome without respect for human rights and the rule of law. That must be the starting point for all our efforts against terrorism. Democracy, freedom of speech, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are all crucial to preventing the emergence of terrorism. The terrorist attacks in Norway last July demonstrated that no society can take these values for granted.

Preventing terrorism requires a comprehensive and long-term approach. We must make use of a broad range of measures, including political, economic, legal and military means, and we must maintain a long-term perspective. That approach is at the core of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and that is why Norway not only supports the Strategy but seeks its full implementation as the core of our long-term counter-terrorism policy.

The responsibility for implementing the Global Strategy lies with the Member States, yet the United Nations has an important role to play in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts at the global, regional and country levels, and in assisting Member States in their implementation of the Strategy. However, there is a need to further strengthen cooperation and coordination among United Nations entities to increase efficiency and avoid overlap or gaps. Therefore, Norway welcomes the proposal to appoint a high-level United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, responsible for strategy coordination, coherence and implementation of the Strategy.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is charged with coordinating the efforts of United Nations agencies and other international organizations to assist

Member States. In particular, the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism (I-ACT) framework has yielded positive results in coordination at the country level. Norway supports the Task Force both politically and financially, and is pleased to be associated with the I-ACT project.

Let me conclude by making two brief points. First, we must recognize the important role that victims of terrorism can play, not only because they can counter the appeal of terrorism, but also because they have much to offer in terms of understanding. We should listen to victims and be guided by their experiences when formulating counter-terrorism policies. Victims of terrorism should be treated with dignity and respect.

Secondly, I would also like to note that civil society provides valuable input in many political areas. Hence, it also plays an important role in the implementation of the Global Strategy. Norway thus strongly supports a stronger role for civil society, both internationally and within individual Member States, on all four pillars of the Strategy. For that reason, we should encourage civil society to increase its engagement, and we should establish mechanisms for such engagement in relevant areas and forums.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): First of all, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for his opening remarks. Likewise, I wish to thank Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski of Canada and his able team for their unremitting efforts to facilitate an agreement on the draft resolution before us today (A/66/L.53).

In 2006, the General Assembly took a historic step when it unanimously adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (see resolution 60/288). It was a milestone in reaffirming the international community's collective commitment to combating the shared threat of terrorism. The establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in December 2009 constituted another significant step in the same direction. At the same time, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre under the auspices of the CTITF is another institution that has helped to promote our efforts to counter terrorism within the United Nations. From the first day of its inception, the Centre has received much attention and support from the Member States. I believe that the Centre will play an instrumental role in meeting Member States' increasing number of requests for technical assistance and capacity-building.

The review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy presents us with a unique opportunity to examine biennial progress made in the implementation of the Strategy. On this occasion, we will consider updating it so that it responds to the new challenges posed by the changing nature of terrorist acts. In that context, I would like to thank Assistant Secretaries-General Bob Orr and Mike Smith for their invaluable efforts to promote the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a whole.

We cannot counter terrorism solely through law enforcement measures. While the security component of the fight is critical, it is not alone sufficient to obtain the desired result. It is simply not possible to achieve lasting security at the cost of democratic freedoms. Hence, we must preserve the critical balance between security requirements, on the one hand, and democratic freedoms and basic human rights, on the other. However, like all democratic rights, freedom of speech should not be abused. Incitement to terrorism, violence, racial/ethnic hatred and discrimination, or glorifying such acts, cannot be accepted or condoned.

We should continue to enhance existing measures and to adopt new ones to prevent and to combat terrorism, in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attacks, to their targets and to the intended impact of those attacks. However, any counter-terrorism strategy, no matter how successful on its own merits, can lead to tangible results only if it benefits from international cooperation and the true support of other nations. Let me touch upon a few points.

A lack of capacity, particularly in expertise and resources, constitutes the highest challenge for many countries. Enhancing capacity-building and law enforcement in all Member States requires particular attention. Cooperation at the regional and subregional levels is particularly significant to countering terrorism. In that context, it is important to build new partnerships, to enhance institutional capacities and to develop cooperative networks. That would have an enduring impact on our collective efforts.

I believe that disseminating information through the United Nations and creating awareness of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions are essential. We need to redouble our efforts to strengthen United Nations outreach with that aim. I believe that ensuring effective

implementation is highly important to succeeding in our endeavours to combat terrorism.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity once again to underline Turkey's full commitment in that regard and to voice our belief that the international community can and will win such a campaign.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): Liechtenstein strongly condemns all acts of terrorism, irrespective of their motivation and wherever and by whomsoever committed. We also reaffirm our commitment to contribute to the fullest extent to the international fight against terrorism in all its aspects, including through cooperation with the relevant United Nations bodies and through the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We are pleased that the third review of the Strategy has resulted in its reaffirmation, thus underscoring that the international community is united in the fight against terrorism. We strongly believe that the General Assembly must continue to play a key role in shaping the work of the United Nations, including the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, to combat terrorism.

We would like to thank Canada for having steered us through the review process. In our view, the highlight of this year's review is the greater attention given to the plight of victims of terrorism. Supporting the victims of terrorism, including through steps for their rehabilitation, must be one of our top priorities. Such victims must also be given a stronger voice in our efforts, as they are the ones who can send the most powerful message against the terrorists' message of violence.

The adoption of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 (resolution 60/288) was a unique achievement that brought significant progress in our effort to enhance and to streamline the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations and its Member States. We strongly support the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which will further benefit from the newly established United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. Furthermore, we support the Secretary-General's proposal to establish a system-wide counter-terrorism coordinator as a step towards greater coherence and impact. We remain keenly aware of the inherent limits of any effort to coordinate the various United Nations entities with different mandates and reporting lines. In establishing that position, we will have to find the right balance between respecting mandates and eliminating the existing fragmentation, to the extent possible.

A key aspect of the Strategy is the balance provided by its four pillars: addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, capacity-building and respect for human rights and the rule of law. All four pillars must be evenly implemented by States and by the United Nations. We all know that that is often not the case in practice. In particular, measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law, as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism, are often just an afterthought, at best. At worst, counter-terrorist operations are undertaken without due regard for the rights of innocent civilians, or even target civilian populations for political reasons. That issue requires greater attention from the United Nations system, including the Security Council in the most serious cases, but also in the context of responsible capacity-building.

Full respect for human rights while countering terrorism is not only an obligation under international law. It is also part of an effective fight against terrorism as systematic violations of human rights can be exploited by those who wish to promote terrorist movements. The importance of the human rights dimension also requires the United Nations to lead by example in areas where it undertakes concrete measures to prevent and to combat terrorism.

In that regard, the Security Council has made significant progress by establishing, and by subsequently strengthening, the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). We commend the work of the Ombudsperson, Ms. Kimberly Prost, who has admirably managed, within a short time and with limited resources, to bring greater fairness to the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Such gains, however, remain fragile as the Ombudsperson system can only be effective with the full cooperation of all States concerned. We call on the Security Council to consider that aspect, in particular, when extending the mandate of the Ombudsperson at the end of this year.

Mr. Abdullah (Malaysia): At the outset, I wish to join others in extending our appreciation to the President for convening this highly important meeting, which allows us to take stock of the progress made in implementing the landmark Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 2006. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his

report (A/66/762) on the ongoing implementation of the Strategy. Last, but not least, I wish to pay tribute to the tireless efforts and the excellent work of Ambassador Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, in facilitating consultations on the draft resolution on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/L.53).

At this juncture, I wish to align my statement with that made by the Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. Today, as we celebrate the sixth anniversary of the landmark Strategy, we do so with a sense of pride and accomplishment. For the first time, the international community came together as one to agree on a common Strategy that is all-encompassing and addresses the ugly scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in all aspects and at all levels. The four pillars outlined in the Strategy allow us to deal with terrorism in an integrated manner. On this, my delegation feels that it is also important to deal with the various aspects of terrorism in a balanced way that gives equal attention to all four pillars of the Strategy. This is something that Malaysia has always been committed to and is reflected in our efforts to combat terrorism thus far.

At the national level, Malaysia has ratified 9 of the 13 international conventions and protocols on terrorism and taken various measures to fulfil its obligations, as set forth by the General Assembly and the Security Council. We are in the midst of amending the relevant national laws to enable us to accede to the remaining conventions and protocols.

Malaysia established the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism with the aim of enhancing capacity-building and extending technical assistance at the international level. Since its inception in November 2002, the Centre has conducted 96 training courses, workshops and forums attended by over 3,000 local and foreign participants. Of late, the Centre has expanded its collaboration with other international organizations, such as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Malaysia has also signed bilateral agreements to enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism with many of our partners in the region and beyond.

Malaysia believes in the saying that prevention is better than cure. In addressing some of the more common factors that lead people to turn to terrorism, Malaysia has taken various measures to eradicate hardcore poverty in the country and ensure that the population enjoys equitable economic growth. The Government has also ensured that Malaysia's expenditure on education consistently exceeds 20 per cent of the annual national budget.

Humiliation, despair and a sense of utter hopelessness are another wellspring of terrorism. In this regard, we believe in the undeniable need to allow those who live under occupation to enjoy their most fundamental right to life and liberty with dignity and hope. The international community must do more if we are truly sincere about and committed to eradicating terrorism and extremism, and we must act accordingly. We cannot pretend that the problem in the Middle East does not exist, nor can we continue to live in a state of denial about the atrocities that have been committed. So long as there are populations that live in dismal conditions and in despair, knowing that neither they nor their children have any hope for improvement in their lives, our efforts to eradicate terrorism will end in vain.

While greater interaction and understanding are pivotal in building trust, Malaysia believes that the real problem that exists today is not between peoples of different faiths and cultures. It is, rather, between moderates and extremists of all faiths and cultures. It is for this reason that the Prime Minister of Malaysia called for the establishment of a global movement of the moderates during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly. It is essentially a call on the silent majority of moderate people of all faiths and cultures to drown out the voices of hatred and extremism that have been perpetuated by a mere handful. It is an avenue that supports the voice of reason, understanding, tolerance and respect. What is pertinent is that moderates be seen as occupying the centre stage and that they push extremism and terrorism to the periphery.

While we take a step back and examine the progress made, we must also look forward to what lies ahead. On this, my delegation is supportive of efforts to enhance counter-terrorism measures, and we look forward to further discussions leading to the appointment of an overall United Nations Counter-Terrorism coordinator, as proposed by the Secretary-General. This would create greater coherence in the work of the United Nations in fighting this ugly scourge. Malaysia appreciates the fact that the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has brought the international community one step closer to achieving our noble intention of eradicating terrorism. To that end,

rest assured, Sir, of Malaysia's firm commitment to see a world free from terrorism.

Mr. Mbai (Indonesia): Let me begin by thanking Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762).

The delegation of Indonesia is very pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this important third review of the Strategy, because this is the forum where we can measure our progress on this very critical agenda item and share views, best practices and lessons learned. In this regard, the delegation of Indonesia also appreciates the initiative of the President of the General Assembly in convening yesterday the seminar on dialogue, understanding and countering the appeal of terrorism.

Terrorism continues to pose extremely serious challenges to the international community as a whole. There is ample proof that it remains a persistent, evolving and long-term threat to the security, stability and socio-economic development of all regions. The root causes of terrorism are varied and deep-seated. They demand a comprehensive response that will address all aspects of terrorism. Law enforcement alone will not suffice. Our response must also address those conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, and broad and long-term strategies that make use of the soft-power approach.

In this regard, the only realistic response to the threat of terrorism lies in international cooperation. That is why the Strategy is a viable and effective challenge to the growth of terrorism the world over. We have always advocated the need, however, for the Strategy to be fully and diligently implemented by members of the international community. It remains an article of faith for us that the Strategy must be implemented in full recognition of the principles of the United Nations Charter, particularly as they pertain to the sovereign equality of States and their territorial integrity and political independence.

As Indonesia has always emphasized, however, it is of the greatest importance that all the pillars be implemented in a comprehensive, consistent and balanced way, because each is as important as the others. No pillar is less important, and no pillar comes before another.

I am pleased to say that, at the global level, Indonesia has so far ratified seven of the 16 instruments related to counter-terrorism. We continue to work closely with various United Nations organs, such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to promote the ratification of these instruments and to strengthen capacity-building for their implementation. We also continue to cooperate with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in promoting the implementation of the Strategy. In this regard, Indonesia participated actively in the symposium on international counter-terrorism cooperation convened by the Secretary-General last September, and in the media round table organized by the CTITF, on supporting the United Nations in advancing international cooperation to combat terrorism. We are also pleased to say that Indonesia and several other countries have been working within the Global Counterterrorism Forum framework, which, we are confident, could help advance the implementation of the Global Strategy.

At the regional level, Indonesia has participated in several initiatives, such as the Asian-European meeting, the Asia-Pacific Economic Forum and the Bali Regional Ministerial Meeting on Counter-Terrorism, on various areas of counter-terrorism.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has a strong and highly coordinated counter-terrorism approach with various programmes. Indonesia also ratified the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism in April 2012. We believe that the Convention will fully supplement and support the implementation of the Strategy, especially in the area of human rights and addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism.

The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, established by Indonesia and Australia in 2004, continues to enhance the capacity of law enforcement authorities in the Asia-Pacific region with a variety of training programmes that have benefited relevant officials from over 52 countries.

At the national level, Indonesia's equally rigorous legislative and law enforcement approach to counter-terrorism has seen hundreds of suspected terrorists brought to justice, and many convicted. In our experience, terrorism cannot be addressed by using only the hard approach, and that is why, at present, our national counter-terrorism agency also employs, in the forefront of its strategy, soft-approach tactics that include

deradicalization, counter-radicalization and promoting programmes for moderates. Of equal importance, it continues to organize and support interfaith dialogue as a way of empowering the moderates in our society.

We continue to believe that, while terrorism and terrorist activity cannot be an excused, it is also important to address those conditions that are capable of contributing in any way to the spread of terrorism. In that regard, the implementation of the Strategy's technical cooperation should be enhanced with the Member States to enable them to upgrade their capacity in line with pillar III. Furthermore, we must enhance dialogue among Member States towards promoting cooperation at all levels in the implementation of the Strategy.

The delegation of Indonesia takes note of the proposal of the Secretary-General for the appointment of a counter-terrorism coordinator, and looks forward to achieving greater detail of this proposal. Finally, my delegation wishes to support the draft resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/L.53), and we look forward to its being adopted by consensus.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker for this meeting.

Several representatives have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I remind delegations that the right to reply is limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and five minutes for the second, and that, according to established practice, must be made by representatives from their seats.

I now call on those representatives who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. Adi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): We regret the statement made by the representative of Israel regarding Syria. We would like to recall that Israel should be the last to speak about combating State terrorism. This is an inappropriate term to be used by Israel, which was born at the expense of the suffering of the Arab people, their lives, land, security and homeland.

Israel is in the habit of sending erroneous messages in an attempt to turn the eyes of the world away from its terrorist crimes. It is well known that Israel has many innovative trademarks of terrorism. As an example, Israel was the first nation to take a civilian airline hostage; unfortunately, it was a Syrian aircraft. Israel was the first to have assassinated an international representative. Israel continues to practise its terrorist activities in all corners of the world by killing and by destroying. Is the expulsion of citizens from Palestine, Syria and Lebanon and replacing them by settlers not a form of terrorism? Is not the killing of Palestinian activists in other States by agents of the Israeli secret services also a form of terrorism? Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Mr. Gharibi (Islamic Republic of Iran): Earlier, the Assembly heard the representative of a main sponsor of State terrorism, the occupying Power in the Palestinian territories, make some unacceptable and insulting comments addressed to my country.

It is very regrettable that we give the floor in this body to those who are behind the most horrific terrorist attacks of our times and have employed all terrorist techniques against the Palestinian people and neighbouring countries. Being accused by such a notorious State does no harm, as the whole world is conscious of the endless crimes that have been committed by that regime.

We consider the statements made today to be simply a tactic to divert the public's attention from the illegal and criminal activities that country commits, an example of which is the terrorizing of Iranian scientists in recent months, as well as the other crimes it intends to commit in future.

Ms. Schonmann (Israel): In the topography of terrorism, Syria and Iran are permanent features in the landscape. Iran lies at the true north on the compass of terrorism, while Syria is found at a nearby coordinate on the map. Whenever a Syrian or an Iranian representative speaks during a debate on terrorism, we are given an opportunity to gain insight into the mindsets and motivations of a State sponsor of terrorism.

To the Syrian representative, I can only say that a regime that has murdered many thousands of its own citizens over the past year alone should be the last to lecture in this Hall. The Al-Assad regime has murdered thousands of its own people in the past year, and the death toll continues to climb as we speak. Syria is renowned for its expertise in the business of terrorism. Damascus harbours the headquarters of some of the most notorious terrorist organizations. They build terrorist infrastructure while seeking to demolish the edifice of basic norms and principles of international law. Syria is an open highway for advanced weapons flowing into Hizbullah's bunkers in Lebanon and elsewhere. Syrian

involvement in terrorism beyond its borders only mirrors the Al-Assad regime's terrorizing of its own people.

Obsessing over Israel has not stopped Al-Assad's tanks from flattening entire communities; on the contrary, it has only distracted attention from his crimes. From Homs to Idlib, Al-Assad's trail of destruction is tainted with the bloody footprints of the Iranian regime. They are fuelling Al-Assad's tanks and loading his cannons. The desperate words spoken here by their representatives say nothing about Israel and everything about the desperate and despicable regime they represent.

As for the representative of Iran, one does not, unfortunately, have to look any further than the recent attacks in Georgia, India and Thailand to see that Iran is the world's central banker, chief trainer and primary sponsor of terrorism. As a leading architect of terrorism, Iran is directly involved in activities and plots, even on this soil. It provides sophisticated weapons to Hamas, Hizbullah and other terrorist organizations, and its proxies are the contractors and agents of horrific terrorist activities in the Middle East and elsewhere. Their actions speak for themselves. I need not say anything more.

The Acting President: I have a request for a second right of reply from the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic. I would like to remind him again that he is limited to not more than five minutes.

Mr. Adi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I was surprised to hear the representative of the Zionist regime respond once again to our words. I was even more surprised that she talked about maps, topography and the features of that topography in an occupying State that is exercising a new form of occupation based on expelling the original inhabitants of a country and replacing them with others. Any discussion of crimes can only remind us of Israel and its crimes against everyone. Shedding crocodile tears in order to divert attention from Israel's crimes will never succeed.

We have spent hour upon hour in meetings here at the United Nations, considering and discussing Israel's crimes. The terrorism that Israel is perpetrating, as I have said, is multifaceted and, most important, includes nuclear terrorism against all its neighbours, exploiting the threat of nuclear weapons on its territory. I will end here. If I were to begin talking about the terrorist and criminal history of Israel, I would need a full day at least.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.120

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

120th plenary meeting
Friday, 29 June 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser. . . . . (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Zinsou (Benin), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1)

Draft resolution (A/66/L.53)

Mr. Okafor (Nigeria): I wish to express profound appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for convening this important meeting. My delegation would also like to thank the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, for his efforts and commitment in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Today's meeting is indeed an affirmation of the significance and invaluable contribution of the General Assembly to the global efforts to combat the scourge of terrorism. The statements by Member States yesterday underscore the importance of strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The heightened incidence of terrorist attacks globally remains a continuing challenge. In this regard, Nigeria firmly supports the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a comprehensive and effective framework to fight terrorism. Equally, Nigeria endorses the mandate of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), whose activities range from conflict prevention and resolution to capacity-building, education, peacekeeping, health and other development questions. We believe that all those issues should be addressed during this review to strengthen the global efforts to combat terrorism.

Nigeria supports international initiatives aimed at strengthening international cooperation to counter terrorism and the implementation of all recommendations formulated within the overall framework of the Strategy's four pillars. Whenever new mechanisms are deemed necessary, it is important to avoid duplication of effort and to ensure that they work together within the United Nations and its Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to facilitate and promote coordination and coherence in order to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms.

At the regional level, Nigeria has participated in the formulation of the Protocol to the 1999 OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and has acceded to the Convention.

Over the past four months, Nigeria has faced an upsurge in acts of terrorism in the northern part of the country. Rather than being intimidated by those terrorist acts, we are resolved to develop national strategies and, above all, collaborate more closely with the international community. In this regard, Nigeria's response has been swift and determined. We

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have developed new national strategies and intensified collaboration with the international community in addressing this threat. Nigeria has also undertaken measures to strengthen its law enforcement capabilities and legal/regulatory infrastructure and to enhance its strategic partnerships.

It is pertinent to note that, in January, Nigeria and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) launched the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism Initiative. The CTITF also facilitated a training workshop in June on suicide attacks and preventive strategies, under the project for stabilization and counter-terrorism capacity-building in Nigeria.

In support of awareness activities on global counter-terrorism efforts, Nigeria has also indicated interest in hosting the launch of the Strategy in the West African subregion later this year. The three-pronged project is a concrete example of what can be achieved when partner States, international organizations, civil society organizations and stakeholders work in concert for the attainment of a common objective. Furthermore, Nigeria's membership in the Global Counterterrorism Forum and the Advisory Board of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre underscore our commitment to galvanize and join global efforts in the fight against terrorism and all its ramifications.

At the national level, President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan signed into law, on 3 June 2011, the Terrorism Prevention Bill 2011 and the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011. The Bill established measures for the prevention, prohibition and combating of acts of terrorism in Nigeria, while the Money Laundering Prohibition Act strengthened measures to prohibit the financing of terrorism and the laundering of the proceeds of crime or illegal acts. To further strengthen the provisions of those laws in accordance with modern standards, Nigeria is reviewing this legal/regulatory architecture and incorporating global best practices.

It is evident that close and systematic cooperation among all States is indeed an essential prerequisite for an effective United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Winning the war against terrorism is achievable only through firm and determined resolve and commitment by all stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels. I would like to urge the General Assembly to continue this coordinated approach towards combating terrorism. It is our fervent hope that this third review will provide new insights and impetus for enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Nigeria reiterates its commitment to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and all other such initiatives.

Mr. Tuvić (Serbia): It is my pleasure to attend this extraordinary event that marks six years since the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Let me point out that the Republic of Serbia aligns itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union (EU). I shall therefore focus my statement on some points from my country's national perspective. In particular, I want to emphasize those elements that have not been included in the recently published report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the Republic of Serbia in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/762), in particular the progress relating to strengthening national capacity, legislation and the training of local stakeholders to implement standards that contribute to the development of national counter-terrorism plans.

For the Government of the Republic of Serbia, which has set an ambitious reform agenda with membership in the European Union as its strategic priority, any assistance providing more effective and efficient social, economic and political development is of great value. When it comes to fighting terrorism, the guidelines contained in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy are of paramount importance to us, particularly the references to measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation.

In that context, I wish to inform the General Assembly that we are approaching the final stages of preparation for the start of a joint project with the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) aimed at strengthening the legal regime against terrorism in Serbia. Keeping in mind that the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the primary global provider of legal technical assistance relating to the international legal regime against terrorism, we have developed, together with the European Commission, a programme of activities designed to ensure a high level of visibility and to be an example of good practices that can be emulated by others.

The proposed initiative will be further developed in close cooperation with representatives and experts of the member States of the EU, as well as with the relevant EU institutions. We wish to emphasize that relevant provisions and strategic commitments in EU documents will be taken into account. The primary aim of the initiative is to build the capacities of relevant authorities and to develop a comprehensive counter-terrorism legal framework in the Republic of Serbia in order to effectively combat terrorism and strengthen efficient interagency cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Finally, let me mention some of the activities of the Republic of Serbia aimed at strengthening the common front in the fight against terrorism. In order to strengthen the regional response to the serious challenges and threats to international security caused by links between the financing of terrorist activities and organized crime, my Government hosted last year a workshop on countering terrorist financing for south-eastern European States held jointly by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Southeast European Cooperative Initiative and the Regional Cooperation Council, in cooperation with the UNODC.

We also wish to inform the Assembly that, in late April, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004), on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. A draft law on the freezing of terrorist assets is currently being publicly debated and will enter procedural channels as soon as the new Government is formed. Once the draft law is adopted, Serbia will have a formal mechanism in place to detect and freeze assets of persons and entities on the Security Council's sanctions list.

Mr. Kydyrov (Kyrgyzstan): I would like to congratulate the President of the General Assembly and His Excellency Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, for the successful consultations they held and for achieving consensus on the draft resolution on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/L.53). We also wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary-General for his reports (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1) and for the efforts of the United Nations system undertaken to implement the Strategy.

Kyrgyzstan continues to conduct activities designed to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Great attention has been paid to the improvement of legislation that aims at eliminating the conditions and causes that allow terrorist or extremist organizations to thrive and at countering the ideology of terrorism and extremism. In particular, laws have been passed on counteracting extremist activities, combating terrorism and terrorism financing and the legalization of the proceeds of crime. In addition, provisions of the criminal code were tightened with respect to the organization of activities aimed at inciting national, racial, religious or interregional strife, the financing of terrorism and involvement in the commission of terrorist crimes.

Previously, the Kyrgyz Republic had joined 10 of the 12 existing United Nations conventions designed to combat international terrorism, as well as their four complementary protocols. Now Kyrgyzstan is seriously considering joining the remaining conventions.

One of the important issues we have considered is the strengthening of competent authorities' capacity in the fight against terrorism. In that regard, in February 2010, we established a State office on financial intelligence for the purposes of countering terrorist financing, money-laundering and the proceeds of crime. In January 2011, a presidential decree established an anti-terrorism centre under the auspices of the State committee on national security in order to coordinate the activities of the public authorities and to promote international cooperation.

For Kyrgyzstan, issues of regional stability and security are of particular importance, in the light of the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force from Afghanistan in 2014. In that context, the Kyrgyz Republic supports the strengthening of regional cooperation. I am pleased to note that, at present, cooperation has been established with the anti-terrorist structures of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other regional and international organizations.

We consider it important to interact with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia. It is with the active collaboration of the Centre that, in December 2011, a joint action plan to

implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia was adopted for the first time at the regional level. Of particular importance was the decision taken at the June meeting of the Council of the heads of member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization held in Beijing to approve the programme of cooperation of SCO member States in the field of combating terrorism, separatism and extremism for the period 2013-2015. It should be noted that the programme provides a wide range of organizational and practical measures to identify, prevent and combat illegal activities related to terrorism, separatism and extremism, as well as for concerted action in the areas of international legal, informational, analytical, scientific and methodological activities, field personnel and logistics.

Within the framework of cooperation with the United Nations in the fight against terrorism, we commend the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and other United Nations entities in providing necessary information and analytical and technical assistance. Kyrgyzstan has established constructive cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Committee's Executive Directorate. In April, a Counter-Terrorism Committee group of experts visited Kyrgyzstan. We hope that their efforts will help to carry out joint measures aimed at strengthening United Nations technical assistance and the Kyrgyz Republic's national capacity to combat terrorism.

Mr. Nikolaichik (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Terrorism continues to be a serious threat to international peace and security, and to retain its universal and transborder nature. The links between terrorism and transnational organized crime — money-laundering and illegal trafficking in drugs and arms — have intensified. These trends demand that we continue to step up efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy comprehensively and in all its aspects. Moreover, as we do so, we believe it is important to gain long-term results from the Strategy's implementation.

The stronger links between terrorism and transnational organized crime also demand that we continue to cooperate effectively in counteracting terrorism, within the framework of the Security Council and the General Assembly and through the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and INTERPOL. In our view, an important element of such interaction should continue to be strengthening national capacities and potential for combating terrorism. Given terrorism's ongoing threat, this aspect of activity should receive greater attention. We call for the completion of an effective system for rendering technical assistance, one whereby donors supply technical assistance for capacity-building that complies fully with States' requests and without delay.

Ensuring border security is an important part of combating terrorism. As a regional exporter of security, in the future Belarus intends to act as an effective guarantor of the security of borders in the interests of its own region. In that regard, we note that costs in this area tend to rise. In that connection, in the light of the need for building capacity in border protection, due to ever-growing threats, we call on our partners to assist with practical interaction, cooperation and mutual help in strengthening borders.

It is exceedingly important to strengthen the international legal framework in order to combat terrorism. In that connection, we express our hope for a speedy conclusion of work on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Belarus is ready to consider compromise proposals in order to conclude the text of the convention and complete the work on this very urgent document. We call on States to demonstrate maximum flexibility and a constructive attitude, including negotiations on the basis of a consensus.

The most recent and glaring terrorist acts have reaffirmed the vulnerability even of socially well off and politically stable States in the face of such threats. Terrorists acting alone have once again shattered existing notions of the nature and objectives of terrorist activity. In that regard, the Belarus delegation emphasizes the importance of pooling efforts to improve preventive measures for combating terrorism, and also of improving the exchange of experience in areas such as transportation security; chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism; combating the financing of terrorism; and counteracting the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

In conclusion, I would like to remind all present that in today's world no countries or regions are immune to terrorism. It can be eliminated only through a broad range of consolidated, effective and mutually complementary measures, undertaken on a bilateral, subregional, regional and international basis.

Mr. Garcia (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to begin by thanking the President for organizing this meeting and by applauding the efforts of Ambassador Rishchynski of Canada, who served as facilitator during the negotiations on the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

France associates itself with the statement made by the observer of the European Union; I would like to add a couple of complementary remarks.

While terrorism continues to evolve, it is more necessary than ever that the international community presents a unified front against this threat. Partly thanks to the Strategy, the United Nations has gradually become an essential actor in the global fight against terrorism. But we must follow up those efforts. To that end, we must continue to promote this tool, designed to bring coherence to existing mechanisms and to strengthen cooperation between States and organizations. Promoting the Strategy will enable us to make progress in a number of areas. First of all, we hope promoting it will play a part in capacity-building, which is a key component in helping the most fragile States or those in crisis to develop the means to help them fight terrorism effectively. Next, it is imperative that the fight against terrorism is conducted with strict respect for human rights. In the long term, promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights remains the best guarantee of the effectiveness of our fight against terrorism. Finally, I would like to add that we should not underestimate the role of the victims of terrorism. In combating this scourge, their voices and message must be taken into account. In all these aspects, we hope that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, established through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, will ensure that tangible results can be speedily obtained.

The draft resolution we will adopt today emphasizes the importance of better coordination at several levels. At the international level, it is important to strengthen coordination with the other organizations fighting terrorism and with those that have developed relevant strategies. This includes the European Union, in particular, but also the Global Counterterrorism Forum. At the internal level, we are pleased that the draft resolution calls for giving greater attention to the proposal to create the post of a counter-terrorism coordinator. In order to be effective, the United Nations must be sure that initiatives are not duplicated and synergies are improved. The establishment of the post of counter-terrorism coordinator should advance that goal.

It is commendable that the General Assembly has been able to arrive at a consensus on this issue. We are determined to ensure that progress can be made in fully implementing the Strategy throughout the world. In general, France will continue to make every effort to ensure that the United Nations has the strength it needs to combat terrorism in all its forms.

Mr. Lakhal (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): I would first like to thank the President for organizing the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and to congratulate the Secretary-General on his report (A/66/762) on the activities of the United Nations in implementing the Strategy over the past two years. I would also like to thank Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, and his team for the commendable efforts they have made in achieving consensus on the draft resolution on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/66/L.53).

The Tunisian delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanenet Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

The Tunisian delegation is gratified by the holding of this third review of the Strategy, which provides my delegation an opportunity to reaffirm its firm condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and its full adherence to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Tunisia has always shown its steady commitment on the national, regional and international levels to the efforts carried out by the international community to combat terrorism. That commitment has been reflected on the national level through the adoption of a multidimensional strategy to grasp the underlying causes of terrorism and the conditions that promote its expansion, along with legal instruments in order to concretize in domestic law the provisions of international treaties and conventions in that area. But given the deficiencies and gaps characterizing Tunisian law with regard to combating terrorism and money-laundering, which have also been used by the past regime to repress individual liberties, Tunisia has undertaken an in-depth reform of its laws to ensure that all actions undertaken to combat terrorism are in keeping with its human rights obligations.

Tunisia is convinced that the struggle against terrorism goes beyond the individual abilities of any State. We have therefore adhered to nearly all of the initiatives and actions dealing with the struggle against

terrorism by ratifying all of the regional conventions in that sphere. We have also adhered to most of the international conventions and treaties dealing with that phenomenon, and we continue to work to fulfil our obligations under the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Tunisia remains convinced that the continuation at the global level of political injustices, the non-resolution of conflicts, economic disparities, exclusion and the defamation of religions are factors that continuesto fuel extremism and promote the indoctrination and recruitment for terrorism. Today, the threat of terrorism is a global challenge that can only be met through the strengthening of the counter-terrorism architecture of the United Nations and a balanced implementation of all the pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Such an approach requires mobilization and real international solidarity, based on effective regional and international cooperation, as well as on the support of all international actors — Governments; international, regional and subregional organizations; civil society; and the media — to that cause to avoid a scattering of efforts and to consolidate our capacity to prevent terrorism in order to fight it and to limit its impact.

Our shared campaign against terrorism is surely legitimate and justified, but it must not be conducted without distinguishing between criminals who have no respect for human life and peoples who are tirelessly fighting to safeguard their right to freedom, dignity and independence. Such is the case of the Palestinian people, who are facing Israeli practices of State terrorism used as a systematic policy designed to usurp the maximum of Palestinian lands, to wipe out an entire culture and to displace as many people as possible in Palestine in order to confine them in ghettos. We must vigorously condemn that kind of State terrorism, in particular since that is a policy practised in total defiance of international law and in contempt of the most basic principles of international law.

Before I conclude, I would like to raise one particularly important issue, which is the social rehabilitation of individuals condemned for terrorism. That is an essential, albeit problematic, issue since the United Nations counter-terrorism agenda does not cover it sufficiently. My delegation believes that rehabilitation during and after incarceration is another form of combating terrorism, which should be part of all counter-terrorism strategies, be they national or global.

Mr. Errázuriz (Chile) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the General Assembly by consensus six years ago, is the international community's expression of political will to jointly and in a coordinated manner tackle the scourge of terrorism, with the United Nations at the centre of responsibility.

Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security and is an attack on the values that they represent. As a global and transnational phenomenon, terrorism can only be successfully fought through international cooperation. The United Nations therefore has an important responsibility to support the coordination of global efforts against terrorism. Its role should be reinforced and strengthened in order to ensure adherence by all countries to those efforts and to ensure that those efforts will be sustained and undertaken in a coordinated manner in the medium and long terms.

Once again, we would like to reiterate our firm support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the four pillars on which it is based. We would like to underscore the need for those pillars to be approached in a balanced and integrated manner, with a special emphasis on pillars I and IV.

In addition to highlighting the work of the United Nations in the context of the Strategy, including the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and other related bodies, we would like to acknowledge that there remain issues and gaps, which may continue to be developed in order to respond to the changing needs, which are constantly evolving and which are what characterizes the scourge before us. In that context, it is our hope that this review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy will contribute to providing important guidance in that regard.

My country condemns terrorism in all of its forms and is committed to preventing and combating it while following and respecting the norms of international law, in particular human rights, international humanitarian law and international law with regard to refugees. Our commitment in this area has been reflected in the fact that we have ratified all international instruments relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism. It is also reflected in our active participation in various forums and appropriate multilateral bodies.

At the national level, Chile has established a counter-terrorism department that reports to the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to facilitate the coordination of foreign policy in the area of terrorism with various related national agencies and to provide an effective response to international requirements in that area. My country's authorities are currently reviewing their ability to respond and have shown themselves to be open to an exchange of experiences and good practices in preventing and responding to a possible terrorist attack, which would include phenomena such as bioterrorism and cyberattacks. We have reached the conclusion that communication flows are important and that the participation and coordination of a number of different actors and strata involved is very important.

Fundamental responsibility for implementing the Strategy falls upon the shoulders of the Member States. For the implementation to be effective and sustainable, however, contributions are needed from the other stakeholders involved. That would include regional and subregional bodies, which can bring a contribution to the table with their knowledge and experience of local episodes. In harmonizing and coordinating efforts, it is important to bear in mind the specific characteristics of the phenomenon of terrorism as it manifests itself in different geographic zones, in such a way that it would be possible to develop initiatives that take into account vulnerabilities, cultural factors and other contextual issues.

Regionally, Chile has continued to participate in the Inter-American Committee on Terrorism, which is a mechanism under the Organization of American States. In the most recent period, our national institutions participated in workshops and conferences prepared by the Committee's secretariat with the aim of preventing and combating terrorist attacks. In November 2011, Chile co-organized, with the Committee's secretariat and the Government of Canada, a subregional workshop on bioterrorism. The workshop brought together experts from the Southern Cone, as well as officials working on terrorism at the regional level, and provided for an exchange of views. A report will be prepared with specific recommendations in order to create a national strategy in that area.

National capacity-building is another key factor in efforts against terrorism. In that regard, it is fundamental to have joint contributions of all actors at the international, regional and subregional levels, geared to increasing capacity and to making it possible to strengthen the role of authorities within the territory of each State.

Developing this and other mechanisms is not enough to halt a phenomenon that is complex and that can manifest in many different ways. We believe that establishing safety and security plans, enacting legislation and providing modern and cohesive institutions is only part of the solution. We also believe that the root cause of terrorism lies in the lack of opportunity, which means that it is necessary to promote a dialogue among the different social actors and provide for the active participation of civil society. This is essential in order to determine and eliminate those factors that might fuel terrorist acts, which would include religious, racial, ethnic or political intolerance as well as the socio-economic divide between nations. In that context, we would like to reiterate that regardless of the measures adopted to combat terrorism, it is important to apply them with strict adherence to international law, particularly respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

My country appreciates the report of the Secretary-General on the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in document A/66/762. We would like to highlight the merit of the proposal on creating a position for a counter-terrorism coordinator. We hope this initiative will continue to be improved upon so that it can achieve general support once conditions are created to that end.

As we have said in other bodies, before concluding our remarks we would like to join in the call for renewing efforts and the necessary political will to conclude a general convention against terrorism. Along with providing a framework and complementing institutional norms that are already in place, it would send a very strong message from the international community to those who seek to weaken international security or undermine human rights and civil liberties.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight and express my gratitude for the work led by the Permanent Representative of Canada, Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, as well as for the manner in which his Mission and his team led the process of negotiations that made it possible to achieve consensus on the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) that we will be adopting today. The text of the draft resolution enables us to reaffirm the international community's commitment to the strategy specifically and to the fight against terrorism in all of its manifestations.

Mr. Al-Awady (Iraq) (*spoke in Arabic*): Iraq believes in the need to combat terrorism. We know that everyone is aware of Iraq's suffering brought about by democratic and political developments in our country following the fall of the Saddam regime, in 2003. Owing to the great importance we attach to international cooperation, Iraq has made every effort to combat terrorism. In that regard, I should like to refer to the following.

First, article 7 A of Iraq's 2005 Constitution prohibits any institution or person from advocating terrorism, racism or ethnic or religious cleansing. It also prohibits preparations to commit terrorist acts, especially by Baathists in Iraq, as well as symbols of Baathism. That cannot be condoned under the new multilateral politically diverse system in Iraq. Iraq has committed itself to fighting terrorism in all its forms, so that our country is not a haven for such activities. In order to achieve that, Iraq has ratified most international treaties, conventions and instruments, including the 16 that have been highlighted in United Nations resolutions, such as resolution 1373 (2001).

Iraq has participated in international workshops and conferences aimed at fostering dialogue and understanding among civilizations and at preventing discrimination and the arbitary singling out of religions and cultures. Iraq has supported the Global Strategy in order to prevent the using of charity to provide financing and support for terrorism. Iraq has also taken part in a number of workshops organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.

With regard to coordinating anti-terrorism efforts, diversity and peaceful coexistence in Iraq cannot be achieved by legislation alone, but by serious efforts to bolster democracy and respect for citizenship. It also cannot be done in the absence of democracy and an appropriate political environment that is open to everyone and fosters tolerance, plurality, equality and the belief in peaceful coexistence free of ethnic conflict. Iraq has been successful in achieving those goals.

The Government of Iraq has put together a global counter-terrorism strategy along the lines of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. It is based on harnessing the legal, political, diplomatic, economic, informational, cultural, educational, financial and military means to counter terrorism and prevent it from jeopardizing security in Iraq. That will also have a positive impact on global and regional security and accord with relevant international humanitarian and human rights law and instruments.

In order to achieve equality among the various sectors of Iraqi society, the second paragraph of article 14 of the Iraqi Constitution calls for respect for religious rights and protects freedom of religious practices. Article 41 ensures the right to freedom of religion regardless of affiliation with any religious or ethnic group.

In order to implement Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), Iraq has expressed its willingness to implement all relevant provisions in respect of the rights of refugees and citizens and international human rights law. Pursuant to articles 15, 19 and 37 of the Constitution, the Iraqi Government has made it illegal to arrest any person without an arrest warrant issued by a court of law. Article 40 also guarantees the freedom of postal, electronic and all other forms of communications and bans telephone surveillance and other restrictive measures without a court-issued warrant, in conformity with human rights norms. We have also enacted legislation to that effect and have set up, in conformity with the Constitution, the Independent High Commission for Human Rights, under the supervision of the Iraqi Parliament, to guarantee full respect for human rights. This will not be in contradiction with the law of refugees or international humanitarian law. Article 21 of the Iraqi Constitution bans extradition of political asylum seekers to any foreign country and the forcible return of such asylum seekers, but political asylum shall not be granted to a person accused of committing terrorist crimes.

Iraq has ratified all international and regional human rights conventions and has signed the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, opened for signature, ratification and accession by resolution 39/46 of 10 December 1984. By virtue of Iraqi Law No. 17 of 2010, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2006 (resolution 61/177), was incorporated into national law. The Iraqi Parliament has also ratified accession to the Arab Charter on Human Rights, which was adopted by the League of Arab States in 2004.

Mr. Cabactulan (Philippines): With the historic adoption in 2006 of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288) and its plan of action, the international community moved from platitudes to platform in the fight against terrorism. For the third biennial review, our resolve remains

clearer than ever. The Philippines joins all speakers and other delegations in renewing its commitment to fighting one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. We also extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/66/762) of 4 April, on the implementation of the Strategy.

One of the most important counter-terrorism measures for the Philippines, then as now, is intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Respect for human dignity lies at the core of greater understanding, respect and tolerance between and among peoples. We continue to contribute to advancing that dialogue here at the United Nations, in regional forums and within our nation. The Philippines also affirms the United Nations role in strengthening the international legal architecture by promoting the rule of law, respect for human rights and effective criminal justice systems. Together, they constitute the fundamental basis of our fight against terrorism.

President Benigno Aquino III has identified the promotion of a just and lasting peace and the rule of law as a key result area of his Social Contract with the Filipino People. An important part of that is the amendment to the Philippines Human Security Act of 2007 (Republic Act No. 9372) — our landmark law against terrorism — which was designed to more effectively bring terrorists to justice and prevent them from committing terrorist acts with impunity. But while we are providing more legal tools for law enforcement and judicial authorities to fight terrorism, respect for and the protection of civil liberties and human rights will at all times be upheld.

Just recently, in keeping with his commitment to good governance, President Aquino signed two new laws against money-laundering and terrorist financing. The first is Republic Act No. 10167, which strengthens the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001. The second is Republic Act No. 10168, which defines and penalizes the crime of the financing of terrorism. Those laws make it easier to freeze a suspicious bank account in order to ensure that criminal proceeds will not be disposed of pending investigation by the authorities. The Financial Action Task Force has taken note of those significant steps as the Philippines' contribution to global efforts to suppress money-laundering, counterfeiting and the financing of terrorism.

In the criminal justice system, law enforcement, security and prosecution authorities should be adequately equipped to respond to terrorist acts, from investigation and evidence-gathering to the bringing of perpetrators to justice. National counter-terrorism programmes must also be anchored in reliable intelligence. With the long-standing support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Anti-Terrorism Council Programme Management Centre of the Philippines continues to offer a highly focused training programme to combat terrorism. The training programme is evidence-based and intelligence-led and emphasizes the joint training of law enforcement, security and prosecution authorities.

Last March, Manila hosted a national experts workshop on designing training for collaborative investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases, which implemented the Philippines counter-terrorism training initiative on capacity-building. At the workshop, Philippine and international experts developed substantive content for the drafting of training materials. They also agreed on selection criteria to develop a pool of national trainers and on guideposts for assessing the quality and impact of training for priority themes. Those themes include intelligence-gathering and analysis, investigation and prosecution, particularly communicating with investigators and evaluating evidence.

Terrorists must never have the ability to wield the destructive force of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction. The 64-point action plan adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons enhances international cooperation towards that aim. We must build on what we achieved at that Review Conference, working for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We all, hand in glove, must work to ensure that nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction never fall into the hands of terrorists. Our efforts reflect our firm commitment to being an even more credible and reliable partner in the global counter-terrorism campaign. That has been true for our own region, through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism.

Because many of our countries have fallen victim to terrorism, many of us recognize first-hand that fighting this evil in all its forms and manifestations is a very complex and difficult task. But rather than submit to fear and paralysis, we should be all the more undaunted and determined. With the Strategy and plan of action, we now have a global consensus on what must

be done. The plan distils our shared experience and best practices. We look forward to sharing stories on their national implementation as we seek to further improve what we must individually do.

We must remain even more vigilant. The fight against terrorism should only unite us, and not sow more conflict that will divide us. This year, in the spirit of the thirtieth anniversary of the 1982 Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes, and in the spirit of the purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter, let us all focus on the big picture of counter-terrorism.

For that reason, I cannot end without adding our congratulations to Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada. His masterful facilitation of our consultations — guiding us through the details without missing the big picture — has led to the consensus draft resolution (A/66/L.53) that we are poised to adopt.

Mr. Rezag-Bara (Algeria) (*spoke in Arabic*): I thank the President of the General Assembly for the importance that he attaches to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would also like to thank Ambassador Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, for his efforts in coordinating our work, and congratulate him on his successful work towards achieving the adoption of a consensus draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the the third review of the Strategy.

My delegation supports the statements made respectively by the Permanent Representative of Syria on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and by the Ambassador of Benin on behalf of the African Group. My country takes this opportunity to yet again condemn as vigorously as possible all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including all acts and activities resulting in harm, and the direct or indirect encouragement, support, promotion or rationalization of such activities.

Terrorism recognizes neither countries nor religions and cannot be justified or linked to any specific culture, civilization or human group. We reaffirm our position of principle in support of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also thank the Working Group on Counter-Terrorism for its remarkable efforts to coordinate the activities of all the actors. I therefore hope that the most recent resolution on the Strategy (resolution 64/297) will remain open and be regularly updated and adjusted to take into account the most recent developments in combating terrorism, and to meet the new challenges posed by that transnational scourge.

My delegation also wishes to emphasize the need to implement in an integrated and harmonious way the four pillars of the Strategy, since progress made since the second review of 2010 will require further efforts for the implementation of those objectives in the years to come. In this context, I recall the crucial importance of strengthening the Strategy through bilateral, regional and international cooperation, capacity-building and exchanges of experience in the fight against terrorism. I also recall one of our latest achievements in strengthening the Strategy — the creation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, in which sisterly Saudi Arabia played a leading role. I would also refer to the measures taken for the creation of the Centre, and reaffirm our support for that initiative. It is our hope that consultations will continue to define its various competencies, legislation and mandates. The Centre will be a new and effective mechanism for coordination and liaison among all the participants in the Strategy.

Allow me to go over some of the major aspects of our approach to combating terrorism, which is based on our national perception of the dangers and challenges posed by the scourge. That approach represents our important contribution to international and regional efforts to implement the Strategy and cooperate with relevant regional mechanisms. Our approach is based on the need to mobilize the domestic front for such efforts. The political aspect is therefore very important. The Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation, proposed by our President and adopted in a 2005 plebiscite, is indeed the proper model for engaging nationally, in coherence and solidarity, with the scourge of terrorism.

At the same time, we wish to provide compensation to, support and care for all victims of terrorism. That initiative has also strengthened economic and social development by promoting our ambitious programmes, which have contributed to the reduction of unemployment and allowed for new and fruitful investments.

The struggle to combat terrorism can succeed only if it takes into account the need to consider the ideological sources and discourse that incite extremist violence, which pushes some of the most vulnerable and least protected groups to accept and be influenced by that discourse. Algeria has therefore done its best

to develop educational and cultural programmes with a religious orientation based on the principles of human rights, peace and tolerance. I would also note the pooling of efforts among security and safety organizations, civil organizations and religious bodies in order to isolate and weaken the remaining terrorist groups, and reduce the impact of their harmful acts. Algeria has always worked to strengthen the values of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of basic freedoms, and has undertaken comprehensive economic and institutional reforms to strengthen social development and reduce differences.

Algerian counter-terrorism policy has assumed an important regional dimension by strengthening cooperation with the countries of the Sahel, thereby expanding the field for cooperation in addressing the challenges posed by terrorist operations, particularly Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb. Algeria also collaborated with concerned countries of the region in strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation by holding a conference with the parties involved on 8 September 2011. The conference underscored the need to adopt an integrated regional approach that acknowledges the need to improve the security situation and to address political challenges in a framework of respect for the unity and sovereignty of States, while expanding partnership and cooperation in the areas of economic and humanitarian development.

The chaotic security situation and the increase in terrorist activities in the region are also linked to an increase in arms and drug trafficking and smuggling. In that context, my delegation would draw the attention of the international community to the need to vigorously combat the financing of terrorism and to address the issues of abduction, hostage-taking and demands of ransom in exchange for the freeing of hostages — all means used by terrorists to increase their lethal capacity.

Algeria would like to express its satisfaction at the level of cooperation with United Nations counter-terrorism mechanisms and specialized agencies. In that regard, I would refer to the training programme established in Algeria in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities; and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. Algeria's membership of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum reaffirms its firm commitment to participating in all activities designed to strengthen international cooperation to combat terrorism.

Algeria, in partnership with Canada, presides over the work of the seminar for counter-terrorism capacity-building in the countries of the African Sahel. In November 2011, Algeria hosted a coordination meeting in that area and endorsed the programme of action and activities of that group.

In conclusion, it is our hope that the resolution that will result from our work will be a new and effective contribution to our global efforts to combat transnational terrorism.

Mr. Šćepanović (Montenegro): At the outset, I would like to join others in thanking the Permanent Representative of Canada for his efforts in facilitating the consultations that resulted in a consensus draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also appreciate the Secretary-General's report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy (A/66/762). Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Terrorism is a complex global phenomenon that knows no boundaries, and its effects are not limited to any particular country or region. Terrorism constitutes a significant threat not only to international peace and security, but also to the principles and ideals of the United Nations. Being a global challenge, it truly requires an integrated and well-coordinated global response.

The unanimous adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 (resolution 60/288) was a milestone achievement. It provided a foundation for an effective and comprehensive response to counter terrorism at all levels. Much progress has been achieved in the implementation of the Strategy since its adoption and through the biennial reviews. The institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which now comprises 31 entities; the CTITF initiative and work on the Integrated Assistance for Countering Terrorism project; the establishment of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Centre within the Task Force; the holding of regional workshops, and the adoption of the first-ever regional joint plan of action in Central Asia all represent important developments and significant gains that will contribute extensively to countering terrorism. Montenegro also welcomes the

establishment of the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum, which aims at promoting the implementation of the Global Counte -Terrorism Strategy.

Against the backdrop of the remarkable results achieved thus far at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, much more needs to be done to ensure the implementation of the Strategy in its entirety. We have to galvanize our efforts and collaboration at all levels and among different stakeholders in combining security, rule of law, development and human rights components with the aim of developing a more balanced and multifaceted approach to all the pillars of the Strategy and more effective responses to the scourge of terrorism.

The unique role of the United Nations, which needs to be at the forefront of those efforts, is pivotal. Closer and more integrated coordination within the United Nations and its relevant entities is necessary in order to maximize its effectiveness and avoid a duplication of tasks. In that direction, Montenegro fully supports the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his latest report, including on the appointment of a single United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator.

The Strategy, together with the third biennial draft resolution, underlines the fact that the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rests with Member States. For that reason, Montenegro has made a concerted effort and undertaken numerous steps to build an efficient legislative and institutional framework for preventing and combating terrorism.

Montenegro remains firmly dedicated to fulfilling the obligations that arise from the universal legal framework against terrorism and related challenges. Fully cognizant of the fact that national actions, no matter how effective, can never be sufficient, Montenegro attaches great importance to working and to actively collaborating, through joint training, working bodies and projects, with other countries of our subregion and the wider region, as well as with relevant subregional, regional and international organizations and initiatives towards eradicating terrorism.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm my country's resolve and support to continue to contribute constructively to international efforts in countering terrorism and to the full and timely implementation of the Global Strategy. We hope that the third biennial review will make a meaningful contribution to further strengthening the momentum and overall implementation of the Strategy.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): Last September, when we met a decade on from the 9/11 attacks to take stock of our collective efforts to combat international terrorism, it was clear that those efforts had already met with some success. Progress had been made in disrupting and dismantling international terrorist networks and in establishing robust legal, policy and institutional frameworks at both the national and global levels. Our understanding of what was required to prevent and to combat international terrorism had also evolved.

However, it is clear that terrorism still poses a serious threat to the international community and that terrorist networks continue to evolve and to adapt to the changing and challenging circumstances. While Al-Qaida has been considerably weakened, the emergence of specific regional offshoots, notably in the Arabian Peninsula, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel, continue to be of particular concern. Terrorist networks have proved remarkably adaptable and resilient, changing tactics, adopting new technologies and identifying new sources and methods of financing to maintain their operations. Around the world terrorist attacks continue. There is no room for complacency.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, now six years old, remains our core framework for confronting the challenge. Our discussions this week have confirmed that the global consensus around the Strategy and our shared resolve in support of its effective implementation remain as strong as ever. I will make five specific points regarding the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) before us.

First, over the past three years, we have made great strides in developing the United Nations framework for supporting the implementation of the Strategy. It is clearly in our interests to ensure that the activities of the United Nations counter-terrorism bodies are well and fully integrated. We therefore welcome and support the Secretary-General's intention to develop his proposal to appoint a single United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator. We urge the Secretariat to present a fully developed proposal to Member States as soon as possible to enable final agreement in a timely manner.

Secondly, we welcome the draft resolution's acknowledgement of the important complementary work of other international and regional organizations and forums in supporting the Strategy's implementation. New Zealand is an active participant in several of those

efforts, including the work of the Pacific Islands Forum and our partnership with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as well as the recently established Global Counterterrorism Forum. Indeed, that Forum offers the potential to be a significant force multiplier for United Nations capacity-building efforts, helping to mobilize resources and to strengthen the provision of assistance in many regions affected by terrorism. We therefore welcome the call for enhanced cooperation and coordination between such forums and the United Nations.

Thirdly, the past two years have provided further demonstration of the persistent link between terrorism and other security threats, including transnational crime, armed conflict and State fragility. Where those threats converge, as they often do, they can pose serious challenges to national and international security. We therefore urge that, over the coming biennium, the United Nations give even greater attention to achieving a better and more effective integration of our responses to those often interlinked threats.

Fourthly, we echo the call of other States represented here today for the full, balanced and effective implementation of the United Nations Strategy across all four pillars. Our collective understanding of how to address conditions conducive to terrorism and measures to prevent and to counter the spread of extremism has advanced significantly over the past few years. We encourage further concerted efforts in that direction again in the coming biennium.

We also welcome recent steps to ensure that the United Nations Al-Qaida and Taliban sanctions regime is accurate and effectively targeted, particularly through the appointment of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The Ombudsperson has already had a positive and significant impact on the Committee's work. However, her effectiveness is ultimately determined by the cooperation and the support received from Member States, including through the provision of information. New Zealand is one of several countries to have reached an understanding with her Office regarding the criteria by which it would consider requests for such information. We urge other States to do likewise.

Finally, New Zealand urges that the United Nations continue its vital work in strengthening national and regional capacities to combat and to prevent terrorism. Capacity-building is integral to the partnership underpinning international counter-terrorism cooperation. New Zealand has been pleased to partner with the United Nations counter-terrorism entities on a number of those initiatives, including in areas such as preventing terrorist financing through the use of cash couriers and strengthening criminal justice and law enforcement capacities and cooperation.

As this review acknowledges what has been achieved, it must also serve as a very timely reminder of the significant tasks and challenges that remain ahead of us. New Zealand is committed to playing its part in efforts to strengthen our collective resilience and to build the capacities of all States to disrupt terrorist networks, prevent terrorist acts and bring perpetrators to justice.

Above all, our discussion in the General Assembly of the world's most universal body must send a strong signal of the strength and determination of the international consensus against terrorism. Those who plan and perpetrate terrorism must know that the international community, as represented by the Assembly, stands resolved to resist and prevent their crimes; that their funding will be intercepted; that their networks will be disrupted and destroyed; and that they will be detected, caught and punished for their attacks on the innocent. Above all, they must know that they will not succeed in their terrorist plots and that we, collectively, will do all that is necessary to ensure that end.

Mr. Al-Jarman (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): I welcome this important meeting, which allows us to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I also welcome the report of the Secretary-General (A/66/762) on United Nations efforts to implement the Strategy.

While my country is pleased with the positive results achieved so far in implementing the Strategy as part of the work of the United Nations and at national and regional levels to ensure a comprehensive international approach to dealing with this dangerous phenomenon, we believe that the progress achieved in implementing the Strategy's four pillars is not yet sufficient. This is due to many ongoing conditions that contribute to the emergence of terrorist acts, such as aggression and the illegal use of force. Such conditions demand that the international community revitalize its mechanisms and strengthen its efforts to address and contain those causes.

Despite the successful efforts by the international community to combat terrorism to date, we continue to witness more sophisticated and dangerous terrorist acts. That makes it imperative that the international community strengthen cooperation and coordination in fighting and preventing the financing of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. That must be done by intensifying the fight against piracy and preventing smuggling and illicit trafficking in arms and drugs; by enhancing international cooperation and coordination in disseminating information; and by strengthening the legal framework that enables the prosecution of those involved in acts of terrorism.

With regard to the issue of ensuring respect for the human rights of all and for the rule of law, we believe that there is a need to reaffirm our full commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law, as well as to the relevant international conventions, particularly those relating to the protection of human rights in all counter-terrorism activities.

The United Arab Emirates, which deplores and strongly condemns all forms of terrorism, has taken a number of measures designed to help implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. They include the continuing evaluation and development of our national legislation, systems and programmes aimed at combating terrorism and its financing; strengthening measures against money-laundering; and enhancing efforts to prevent and prosecute all transnational crimes, including the smuggling of drugs and small arms. To that end, the United Arab Emirates has devoted its capabilities and national expertise to coordinating and cooperating with international mechanisms and other relevant regional and subregional organizations to strengthen its control over banking operations, accounts and investment deposits.

The United Arab Emirates is currently completing preparations in Abu Dhabi to host the headquarters of the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, which has been endorsed by the Working Group on Combating Violent Extremism established by the Global Counterterrorism Forum. The Centre will officially open next October, in collaboration with a number of public and private institutions, and will be the first global forum enabling Governments and civil society organizations to coordinate national, regional and international efforts to combat acts of violent extremism.

As we look forward to the international community reaching an agreement on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism, we renew our call for the convening of an international conference, under the auspices of the United Nations, to formulate a clear definition of terrorism and identify the root causes of its spread. In that context, we also call for support for an international plan to support victims of terrorism. We hope that the deliberations at this meeting will help promote the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Al-Ahmad (Saudi Arabia) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, allow me to convey our gratitude and appreciation for the condolences extended this morning to my Government, people and royal family on the passing away of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior. His Highness's long-standing efforts to maintain security and combat terrorism were commendable. The great contributions he made will go down in the annals of history.

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in connection with this third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I cannot fail to thank the Permanent Representative of Canada and his team for their tireless efforts over the past few months to achieve consensus, as well as for their preparatory work. I should also emphasize the fact that the experience and wisdom that Mr. Rishchynski and his colleagues demonstrated throughout that difficult task played a key role in the success of our endeavours.

Terrorism is one of the most significant challenges of our time. Fighting this phenomenon is not limited to the borders of any one State but is indeed a task for the international community as a whole. Terrorism is not limited to one nation, race, civilization or religion. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has on many occasions and in many international forums reaffirmed its condemnation of, and indignation at, the phenomenon of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomever and however committed. We have declared our total readiness to work with all United Nations bodies to define and fight terrorism, grapple with its underlying causes and contribute effectively to collective international efforts and policies to combat it. That reflects our ongoing and consistent policy towards international terrorism and its perpetrators.

We have adopted a number of measures and actions at the local, regional and international level to counter terrorism, since it is a threat to international peace and security. At the national level, they include the establishment of the Prince Mohammed Bin Nayef Centre for Counselling and Care in the area of rehabilitation. At the international level, we have ratified a number of relevant conventions, including the Convention of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf on Combating Terrorism, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism and the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, as well as 14 of the 16 international conventions aimed at combating terrorism.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which was referenced in resolution 60/288, was established during the International Counter-Terrorism Conference in Riyadh in 2005. The creation of the Centre, which was launched following a signing ceremony in New York on 19 September 2011, was a very important step. Its Advisory Committee met for the second time in Saudi Arabia in June. The Centre reflects our conviction that combating the collective threat posed by terrorism requires international cooperation and coordination of effort, exchanges of views and experiences and information programmes and training. This is a threat that undermines the collective security and stability of all.

My country would like to reaffirm the importance of defining global counter-terrorism strategies at every level. We therefore welcome and support the contribution of the Global Counterterrorism Forum to implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Reviewing the Strategy is not a simple or routine task carried out every two years. It is in fact essential to enable us to tackle this phenomenon, which is a continuing scourge and threat to our security that has increased and evolved in recent years. We must recognize that the terrorism that we know today is no longer the traditional terrorism involvign the usual groups, organization and sources of financing. We now know that there are self-radicalized persons who work alone and without organizational support. Fighting international terrorism of such magnitude requires in-depth reflection on the root causes that motivate terrorism and incite people to violence.

Ensuring justice and restoring rights is crucial to the fight against terrorism. Justice requires that we acknowledge that terrorism can be practised by States against their own people. We cannot remain silent in the face of the very carefully planned out terrorism practised against the Palestinian people, or in the face of accusations that an unarmed people are engaging in terrorist acts. We demand that a stop be put to the illegal occupation of Gaza, where 1.6 million people live, half of whom are children, as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated in her report.

My country sees the wisdom of the Secretary-General's recommendations in his report (A/66/762) to raise the coordination levels among all teams and bodies within the United Nations in the fight against terrorism. Notwithstanding that, we would like to also reaffirm that it is important to preserve the specific role of each body and that coordination should not undermine the balance, transparency or means of communication between the various State bodies or Member States. Furthermore, those recommendations must be considered more closely in the period to come.

We appreciate the attention of the General Assembly and the efforts that the President had made leading up to today's review. We reaffirm our commitment to make every possible effort to implement the principles of the Strategy at the international, regional and national levels.

Ms. Mweemba (Zambia): I wish to congratulate the President for convening this important meeting. I also wish to recognize the tremendous contribution of Canada in facilitating the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is to be adopted soon.

Since the last review, Zambia has made significant strides in addressing the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. In addressing them, the Zambian Government has, among other steps, created core national programmes to address problems affecting the development of education, health services, agriculture, housing and local Government. The Zambian Government has also further introduced a wide range of socio-economic reforms to address issues of social security and protection, as well as those of gender and youth development. Development programmes covered in those sectors include the development of the arts, culture, sport and recreation.

In the mainstream economy, the Government is working around the clock to enhance labour and

industrial reforms and addressing matters relating to financial planning, with a view to developing land and natural resources, infrastructure, trade and commerce. In the area of sustainable development, my country is looking at improvements in science and technology in order to develop the energy, mining and ecotourism sectors, while preserving the environment.

The Zambian Government has also taken cognizance of the fact that bad governance can lead to terrorism. In this vein, there are reforms in the media, the public service, the judiciary, constitutional and electoral areas. General legislation is also being implemented to promote good governance. In the meantime, the Government has cultivated a mutual partnership with the private sector and civic organizations, including religious institutions, in order to promote dialogue on matters of common interest, such as the threat of terrorism.

In addition to that, Zambia continues to observe and implement all the international conventions that our country has signed, especially in relation to human rights, particularly those of women and children, and to promote friendly and cordial relations with the country's neighbours and all foreign countries.

With regard to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, Zambia, as a member of the Eastern and Southern African Anti-Money-Laundering Group, is actively taking steps to address the various challenges that the country faces in relation to preventing and combating terrorism. Zambia will pursue a foreign policy based on the mutuality of common interest and respect, including in the fight against terrorism.

As for capacity-building, Zambia intends to continue to increase its capacity to deal with the threats of terrorism in collaboration with other institutions, such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Representatives may also wish to note that Zambia has established a financial intelligence centre and is in the process of establishing a centre against terrorism.

Finally, Zambia notes with great approval the recommendation to appoint a counter-terrorism coordinator. That will ensure that the Strategy and activities of the United Nations with regard to preventing and combating terrorism are more effectively managed and implemented.

Mr. Bame (Ethiopia): Let me begin by thanking the President for organizing this important debate on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I would like also to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on the Strategy (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1).

My delegation also aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Benin on behalf of the African Group.

Terrorism today constitutes one of the most serious challenges to international peace and security. It is beyond doubt that there is an urgent need to effectively address the challenge through concerted counter-terrorism measures. In response to the growing threat of terrorism in the world, the international community has taken various significant steps in developing long-term strategic responses to that scourge. As a result, in 2006 all United Nations States Members unanimously adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides for a holistic response to terrorist acts and includes a concrete plan of action that rests on four pillars.

Without a doubt, some progress has been made in implementing the Strategy, but the undiminished incidents of terrorism serve as a constant reminder that the implementation of the Strategy has not yet produced the desired results. It is therefore obvious that effective measures are required to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent and combat terrorism, build State capacity and promote respect for human rights and the rule of law.

As we all know, terrorism is a complex and ever-changing phenomenon in terms of its motivation, financing and support mechanisms, methods of attack and choice of targets. That makes it more difficult to counter terrorism effectively. We should admit that the future is uncertain and that it is still possible to be exploited by extremists. However, if we are united and committed in the fight against terrorism, peace and security in the world will be secured.

While the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rests with Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations should continue to play a key role in promoting counter-terrorism cooperation. The joint response of the international community also has to be long-term and multipronged. It has to address the various conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and must include dialogue,

understanding and efforts to counter the appeal of terrorism.

Ethiopia is convinced that tolerance and dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in combating terrorism. We therefore welcome the various initiatives to that end. In a globalized society, Ethiopia is concerned about terrorists' increasing use of new information and communication technologies. The exploitation of the Internet by terrorist groups for a variety of purposes is not new, but lately we have seen terrorists turn increasingly to the Web and the channels it supports to raise money, attract recruits, communicate information and spread propaganda. The international community's response to this challenge has been inadequate, however.

Ethiopia underlines the importance of greater cooperation among United Nations entities and of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system, as well as the need to continue promoting transparency and to avoid duplication of their work. In that connection, we welcome the Secretary-General's recommendation that a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator be appointed.

Ethiopia has taken a number of measures relating to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We have ratified 10 United Nations anti-terrorism instruments. The Ethiopian Parliament has also passed and begun to implement anti-terrorism legislation, with the objective of providing a comprehensive legal framework for combating terrorism. With the support of the CTITF, Ethiopia has also hosted a regional workshop in Addis Ababa on counter-terrorism.

We recognize that money-laundering and terrorist financing are very serious challenges for the international community as a whole. Preventing the financing of terrorism is crucial to suppressing terrorist acts. In that context, we have established a financial intelligence unit that is actively exchanging information on flows of suspicious funding, including terrorist financing. In that regard, we believe that the cooperation of the relevant United Nations entities is essential to the full implementation of our international obligations to combat the financing of terrorism. Ethiopia has also strengthened its cooperation in exchanging information relating to the prevention and combating of terrorism, through bilateral agreements on a joint working group, for example, and on countering terrorism bilaterally. We have also concluded extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements with countries of our region and others.

Ethiopia's commitment to working with international organizations such as the United Nations and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and with regional bodies of which it is a member, such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, is unwavering. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work done by the Task Force and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to organize workshops and seminars focused on the implementation of the Strategy in our subregion.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my country's commitment to continuing to work at the national, regional and global levels to combat terrorism in order to create an international environment hostile to terrorism.

Mr. Ndungutse (Uganda): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to convey Uganda's appreciation for the efforts of His Excellency Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada and facilitator of the consultations of the third biennial review of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Uganda continues to face terrorist challenges from the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and Al-Shabaab groups, which are all linked to Al-Qaida. The ADF, now based in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has embarked seriously on recruiting and training young people, including children, who are now child soldiers. However, since the bomb attacks of 11 July 2010 in Kampala, no other incidents have been recorded. Mindful of the threat posed by those and other terrorist groups, Uganda recognizes the key role played by the United Nations in international counter-terrorism operations, and strongly supports the effective implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Since 1998, the Government of Uganda has adopted several measures at the national, regional and international levels aimed at preventing and combating both local and international terrorism. That approach

involves a combination of the policy tools and measures available, as well as cooperation at various levels. In the fight against terrorism, Uganda has adopted the following measures.

At the international level, we continue to support all relevant United Nations resolutions, conventions and international agreements. In that regard, we are implementing measures to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

At the regional level, Uganda has adopted and is implementing international protocols on countering terrorism in the region. As a member of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Uganda is implementing the IGAD plan of action for preventing and combating terrorism, adopted in Kampala in October 2003. We are also actively involved in regional and subregional efforts to promote peace and security through frameworks such as the East African Community (EAC), IGAD, the Conference on the Great Lakes Region and the African Union (AU).

At the national level, Uganda passed an anti-terrorism act in 2002 that establishes the legal framework within which counter-terrorism efforts are regulated. Under the law, anyone who engages in aiding, financing, harbouring or planning acts of terrorism is committing an offence that carries a maximum penalty of execution. Part II, section 5, of the act also provides for mutual legal assistance and extradition.

Uganda has taken all the necessary measures to combat terrorism, particularly by making efforts to prevent its territory from being used for cross-border terrorist acts and to swiftly bring to justice people or entities participating in such acts on its territory, an example of which is the prosecution of those involved in the attacks in Kampala on 11 July 2010, in which 78 innocent people perished and more than 200 were injured.

In 2000, we enacted an amnesty law, whose effectiveness has been proven as it has motivated a number of terrorists to abandon their cause and surrender. Most of those who defected to the Government from the ADF and the LRA have been pardoned and reintegrated into society. In 2007, Uganda created a strategy for raising public awareness and sensitization through police-led security education and training programmes, under which regular surveys and inspections of vital installations and establishments are carried out in order to upgrade security measures around the facilities and to sensitize members of society. Security forces are also collaborating closely with immigration and customs authorities in order to prevent people involved in illicit activities from entering the country.

Uganda is also building its capacity in the fight against terrorism through the acquisition of specialized equipment and training. Uganda has also started issuing national identity cards to all its citizens, which is expected to eliminate cases stemming from the illegal acquisition of travel documents.

We reaffirm our support for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and would like to make the following recommendations.

First, there should be timely and regular exchanges of information relating to terrorism between States. Secondly, improved international cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases should be given priority. Thirdly, national capacities in intelligence, investigation and prosecution of terrorism-related cases, including extradition of all terrorists without exception, should be enhanced. Fourthly, regional and subregional cooperation with the AU, IGAD and the ECA, inter alia, should be strengthened. Finally, international cooperation in countering the financing of terrorism should be improved.

Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka): Allow me to thank the President for his leadership in organizing the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We thank the Permanent Representative of Canada for his efforts in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution (A/66/L.53) on the review of the implementation of the Strategy. My delegation also welcomes the comprehensive reports of the Secretary-General on the activities undertaken by the United Nations system to implement the Strategy (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1).

Since its adoption, in 2006, the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has continued to provide a comprehensive and important governing framework for counter-terrorism activities. The biennial review is an opportunity for us to take stock of the progress made by all the Member States in implementing the Strategy. While we renew our commitment to enhancing counter-terrorism cooperation among States, it is also necessary to continue the coordination and collaboration between the United Nations and regional and national counter-terrorism networks.

Despite the concerted efforts by the international community and Member States to counter terrorism, the menace continues to threaten the world in different forms and manifestations. The scourge afflicts all of us — the big, the small, the strong and the weak. What remains of critical concern is the continuing phenomenon of an ever-ready and increasing pool of volunteers willing to participate in terrorism.

In that context, it is critical to sustain the focus on addressing the conditions that give rise to the spread of terrorism. In our view, the current predominant focus on security aspects, while necessary, will not suffice to eliminate terrorism or its appeal. There is therefore a need for a more balanced implementation of the four pillars of the Strategy.

Sri Lanka recently emerged from 27 years of terrorism. In 2009, with its defeat, we brought to an end a dark era of 27 years of daily bombings, including endless suicide bombings and shootings, and thousands of deaths, mainly of civilians — men, women and children. Thousands of children were recruited as combatants by the terrorists.

Today we have peace. The Government has adopted a policy of restorative justice in order to counter any future drift towards terrorism. Because of peace breaking out, the economy is booming and tourism is growing exponentially. The Government has adopted a policy to address the causes of terrorism that broadly coincides with the sentiments expressed by the President of the General Assembly. Economic marginalization and a lack of opportunity have been recognized as key factors that attract the young to the ranks of the terrorists.

Large-scale funding has now been directed to the former conflict-affected areas in my country in order to rebuild schools, hospitals and clinics, rehabilitate the agriculture and fisheries, rebuild roads, reconnect the electricity and water, and so forth. As a consequence, in the past year, the economy of those areas rebounded with growth of about 22 per cent, compared with the national average growth rate of 8.2 per cent.

The Government also recognized that long-term incarceration of combatants would be counterproductive. At the end of the conflict in 2009, over 11,700 terrorist combatants surrendered to security forces. The Government, having recognized that most of them were victims rather than initiators of the terrorist conflict, decided to rehabilitate the former combatants and send them home, consistent with the policy of restorative justice. In so doing, it was also recognized that the indefinite incarceration of the former combatants would only encourage greater feelings of anger and bitterness. That was done despite the recovery of buried weapons on a regular basis. Close to 600 child soldiers captured by security forces have been rehabilitated and returned to their families or extended families.

All of those persons have been provided the opportunity to resume their education, gain access to technical training or develop skills in agriculture and fisheries so that they can return to normal society with skills that can provide livelihoods. Our approach to healing the wounds reflects our own values. Restoration and rehabilitation, rather than punishment, is our approach.

Our youth was also attracted to terrorism by the glamorization of violence as a means to achieve political goals and as a means for young people to express themselves. The easy manipulation of the media by terrorist groups, the charismatic and uncompromising approach of the leadership, the exploitation of youth disenchantment by greedy politicians and the tolerance and accommodation shown by certain influential international elements towards the terrorists' goals were key elements. We need to be unflinchingly aware of the consequences of nurturing tigers.

One of the key concerns of the Government is the continuing existence in certain countries of the West of vocal supporters of the terrorists, in particular elements that had once funded the terrorist groups, its child recruitment and suicide bombing campaigns. Those groups continue to raise funds and agitate against the Government and the people of Sri Lanka. The message that that tolerance conveys to other terrorist groups is one of hope.

Sri Lanka is a State party to key international instruments aimed at countering terrorism. Sri Lanka has also enacted strong legislation to give effect to the international instruments. A number of mutual legal assistance agreements have been signed at the bilateral and regional levels. We are a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering and of the Egmont Group. In 1988, we ratified the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the related mutual legal assistance agreement.

Sri Lanka is a party to the seven key human rights treaties and is committed to upholding the core principles and values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international law and international humanitarian law. The Directorate of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law of the Sri Lanka Army, in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross, provides training in international humanitarian law and human rights law to service personnel. The National Human Rights Commission is responsible for promoting and protecting human rights. The Commission can inquire into and investigate complaints regarding rights violations in order to ensure compliance with the fundamental rights provisions of our Constitution.

My delegation supports the efforts to enhance overall coordination and avoid duplication of effort in countering terrorism. While we welcome the Secretary-General's proposal to create a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, we also hope that such a position will not affect the existing mandates of the United Nations organs and the General Assembly's role in countering terrorism. We also believe that the early conclusion of the comprehensive convention on terrorism will further facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Sri Lanka remains committed to implementing the Strategy and to supporting international efforts to counter terrorism. We are also ready to contribute to counter-terrorism efforts through the sharing of expertise, best practices in the delivery of essential services and other lessons learned.

Mr. Sareer (Maldives): It is an honour for me to be here today, and I would like to thank the President for convening this meeting.

I join previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, for successfully leading the consultations on the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Maldives does not believe that there can be a localized incident of terrorism. We do not believe that any terrorist act can be considered solely as a national issue. In all its forms and manifestations and in all the locations around the world where we see this scourge rear its ugly head, it has always been an international issue of concern. It is condemned globally and it is through a globally coordinated Strategy that we address it. It is in that sprit that my delegation commends the work done to bring about consensus on the draft resolution (A/66/L.53). It is in that same spirit that we support the Secretary-General's reports (A/66/762 and A/66/762/Add.1), the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

The Republic of Maldives is firmly committed to combating all acts of terrorism and is pleased that the draft resolution takes into account the necessity for a balanced, comprehensive and systematic approach to addressing global terrorism. Maldives is party to 12 of the 13 international treaties on counter-terrorism, as well as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol. As a party to those international obligations, Maldives reaffirms its commitment to fighting for justice, basic human rights and the rule of law.

Maldives commends the Royal Government of Saudi Arabia for its initiative in establishing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre last year and looks forward to greater engagement from the Centre.

It should be noted that fighting terrorism requires a comprehensive approach, where nations focus on awareness and prevention rather than just punishment. The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, being the voice of the community of nations, takes that basic premise into account.

With regard to the Secretary-General's recommendations, Maldives supports the appointment of a single United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator, as well as the development of national and regional strategy implementation plans. It is our deepest desire that those recommendations are operationalized in a manner that encourages greater regional cooperation.

As an island State in the middle of the Indian Ocean, Maldives is confronted with the scourge of maritime piracy. In the recent past, our country has faced an upsurge of incidents. In that regard, it is pleasing to note that the seventeenth SAARC Summit, held in Maldives in November 2011, decided to initiate work towards combating maritime piracy in the South Asian region.

Throughout history, Maldives has been, and remains, constantly vigilant of ideologies that breed extremism, which in turn cultivates hate and thereby

fosters violence. However legitimate a grievance may be, the use of violence to support a political, religious or other ideology can be defined as nothing less than terrorism.

The Government of Maldives has placed the prevention of violence at the forefront of its agenda. Our law enforcement agencies have been able to coordinate to root out violence. It is imperative that intelligence be shared both domestically as well as internationally so that there is a coordinated effort to counter terrorism.

In 2008, my country adopted a liberal Constitution where powers were separated and independent institutions of democratic governance created. In order for the current and future generations of Maldivians to better understand the inherent rights and responsibilities enshrined in the new Constitution, the Government of Maldives recently initiated a programme incorporating civic education into the country's school curriculum. In higher secondary education, the Government has also supported an interdisciplinary study of faith aimed at encouraging unity, progress and hope in order to dispel any sign of hatred and division.

It is through addressing that hatred that we change the extremist narrative, through education that we lessen recruitment and through democratic norms that we produce justice. As part of a programme of strengthening the independent institutions and branches of democratic governance in Maldives, the Government is facilitating a programme on justice sector reform, incorporating human rights prerogatives and democratic ideals into the judicial system so that that branch of governance may better meet its obligations under the new Constitution. That reform programme, together with updated bills on violence and the introduction of a penal code, will give structure to the judicial system and ensure that the most absolute measure of criminal justice is carried out, while protecting the fundamental human rights of all Maldivians and the maintenance of the rule of law.

Economic disparity and exclusion must also be taken into account as root causes of terrorism. As a nation with an economy that is both small and vulnerable to internal and external shocks, Maldives is ever cognizant of the potential for radicalization among the destitute. Maldives is therefore determined to maintain its focus on development as a vehicle to combat terrorism.

Terrorism in all forms and manifestations is a threat to human dignity. We, as the community of nations, must be resolute in our comprehensive response to it. The Maldives believes that the United Nations remains the only organization that can universally deal with this global challenge. Maldives therefore pledges its unequivocal support for the fulfilment of each pillar of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Alia (Benin) (*spoke in French*): First and foremost, on behalf of the African Group and on my own behalf, I would like to express my full satisfaction for the holding of the third review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as at seeing you, Sir, presiding over our meeting. Allow me to also express the African Group's appreciation for the untiring and sustained efforts of Ambassador Guillermo Rishchynski, Permanent Representative of Canada, who served as the facilitator for the Strategy's third biannual review. The Group would also like to pay tribute to him for the intensive consultations that were held in the context of reaching consensus on the draft resolution on the review (A/66/L.53).

Terrorism is a serious threat to our collective security. Terrorist attacks, which sow the seeds of misfortune and desolation throughout all continents, especially in Africa, serve to remind us of the need and urgency of uniting our efforts and coordinating our action in order to conquer that danger.

Africa reiterates its total condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It firmly rejects any attempts to associate terrorism with any one religion or nationality, and believes that those who are bent on inventing such entirely absurd ties are playing into the hands of terrorists, whose actions are in no way justifiable. The persistence of this heinous phenomenon, which appears in unsuspected forms and immeasurable proportions, demands that all nations cooperate closely and act vigorously in a pitiless struggle to eradicate it.

No one can ignore the existence of terrorism. It has reared its head ever more cruelly since the vile attacks of 11 September 2001 and continues to affect Africa, particularly Nigeria. There is no motive or reason that can justify terrorism, a totally irrational phenomenon whose acts are as vile as they are shameful. The international community must spare no effort to find ways to drive terrorists from their sanctuaries, whether in the mountains of Afghanistan or the dunes of the Sahara and the Sahel, and to bring them to justice in order to prevent them from harming and to save humankind from their lethal schemes.

Africa supports without reservation the central role of the United Nations in the struggle against this scourge through the establishment in 2006 of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which we are currently reviewing for the third time in order to see how far we have come and to examine the best prospects for an effective fight in the future. The Secretary-General's report (A/66/762), which summarizes United Nations efforts to implement the Strategy over the past two years, provides the basic data we need to measure what has been done to date and to lay out what is to be done in future against terrorism.

The African Group commends the attention given to strengthening the Strategy's four pillars, especially those geared to eliminating conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as well as those on preventing and settling conflicts, extending assistance to victims of terrorism, development and social integration, dialogue, understanding and the fight against terrorism's appeal, as well as measures aimed at strengthening States' capacities in the areas of preventing and combating terrorism, and at strengthening the role of the United Nations in that regard.

The African Group takes note of the report and believes that everything must be implemented in order prevent terrorists from organizing and carrying out their plans. In that regard, the Group considers it imperative that steps be taken at the global level to combat terrorist groups' use of modern means of communication, particularly Internet sites, by which they coordinate their criminal activities in recruiting, propagandizing and spreading the word about their vile acts. We would also like to stress the importance of ramping up efforts to combat the financing of terrorism in all its forms, especially ransom payments demanded when hostages are taken. This disgusting and cynical method is a significant source of financing for terrorism. The Group emphasizes the necessity of implementing those provisions concerning ransom payment contained in resolution 65/34, introduced at Algeria's initiative in accordance with the decision of the African Union.

The African Centre for Study and Research on Terrorism, established within the framework of the African Union, is one of Africa's special contributions to the international communicty's efforts to combat terrorism. It is also worth mentioning that an African anti-terrorism framework law has been adopted and is currently being prepared as part of the the Centre's activities.

The African Group commends the Secretary-General's proposal to designate a United Nations counter-terrorism coordinator to head the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and provide advice in this area. Meanwhile, we would like to see more extensive cooperation among States through existing legal instruments at the global, regional and subregional levels, such as the Convention on Extradition and Mutural Legal Assistance in Counter-Terrorism, signed in New York by a number of African countries on an initiative by Morocco. In that connection, the African Group welcomes the establishment of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia, and would like to pay deserved tribute to that country for an excellent initiative, a step forward in the search for ways and means for an effective and coordinated approach to fighting the peril of terrorism. The launch in New York on 26 September 2011 of the Global Counterterrorism Forum is also a commendable additional means for continuing to tighten the noose around terrorism.

The President took the Chair.

I cannot conclude without reiterating the importance that the African Group attaches to finalizing the draft of a general convention on terrorism. In that regard, I would like to call on all States to cooperate in seeking the compromises necessary for the adoption of a final text that enables us to focus our actions against terrorism within a single legal framework and at the same time to fill the gaps in existing institutions.

The President: In accordance with resolution 44/4, of 17 October 1989, I now call on the observer of the Council of Europe.

Mr. Koedjikov (Council of Europe): At the outset, let me reiterate, as so many speakers before me have done, the importance that the Council of Europe attaches to having a single, coherent and universally accepted framework for global solidarity and action against terrorism. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an outstanding achievement. It must be preserved, promoted and, above all, put into practice.

The Council of Europe is the oldest all-European regional organization. In the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, our founding fathers dreamed of a Europe of like-minded nations that shared the same values — respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law — a Europe that would never again

have to live through the horror and destruction of war. Indeed, common understanding and respect for those fundamental values is both a precondition and a solid basis for addressing the conditions conducive to the horror and destruction that terrorism brings. From this viewpoint, everything that the Council of Europe has been doing for more than 60 years now has contributed to curbing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Nevertheless, events have shown that Europe is not immune to the threat of terrorism, including that of homegrown terrorism.

New measures are therefore needed that strik a fair balance between the protection of individual human rights and the protection of society from terrorism. As a rule-of-law organization, the Council of Europe pays close attention to strengthening legal action to prevent and combat terrorism. We have developed broadly accepted norms and procedures for sharing information and mutual legal assistance. In that regard, I should mention the Council of Europe mutual legal assistance treaties and the Convention on Cybercrime, which is increasingly becoming a global reference.

The most prominent step taken since the second biennial review was the follow-up to the Council of Europe 2005 Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism, which is an important legally binding regional instrument. This year, the monitoring mechanism for the Convention was set in motion for the first time. The first monitoring round will focus on the implementation of the provisions aimed at countering recruitment for terrorism.

The core body of our counter-terrorism action, the Committee of Experts on Terrorism of the Council of Europe, is responsible for identifying gaps in international law and action against terrorism and to propose solutions. It is now working on the national coordination of the use of special investigation techniques where we have a "soft law" recommendation and on legislative approaches to criminalizing preparatory acts by terrorists acting alone.

We strongly believe that addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the strengthening of the implementation of international instruments and of the legal action to prevent and combat terrorism while respecting human rights and the rule of law must go hand in hand with capacity-building of all national institutions involved in countering the terrorist threat. The development of specialized training modules, the exchange of good practices and the clearing and mainstreaming of communication channels between practitioners will all help to curb the threat and bring terrorists to justice.

The Council of Europe continues to be active in the areas of protecting minorities and fighting intolerance, racism and social exclusion. Our white paper on intercultural dialogue, developed in consultation with State and non-State actors, provides a set of guidelines for projects such as the Intercultural Cities programme, where a model of migrant and minority integration at the local level based on intercultural community-building was successfully piloted.

Our organization is engaged in an open dialogue with representatives of Governments, businesses and civil society on how to safeguard the freedom, privacy, security and integrity of the Internet. Through the Internet Governance Initiative, we want the Internet to be a space for freedom, justice and democracy, and not a tool for the propagation of extremism and terrorism.

The Council of Europe is strongly engaged in assisting victims of terrorism through several relevant conventions and a dozen "soft law" resolutions and recommendations. We are also very conscious of the increasing need to develop a convincing counter-terrorism narrative.

It is the duty of regional organizations to contribute to the sustained implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. With its standard-making capacity, the monitoring mechanisms of its conventions and our technical assistance efforts, the Council of Europe will continue to be a force for enhancing the impact of the Strategy.

The President: In accordance with resolution 48/5, of 13 October 1993, I now call on the observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Wuchte (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): Today is the third time that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) has been given an opportunity to present its activities in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in this forum. The invitation to participate at the General Assembly's biennial review is also a reminder that regional organizations have a well-defined role and a well-received mandate in assisting their participating States in generating political will, raising awareness and building capacity in implementing the Strategy.

The OSCE is aware of that challenging responsibility, and my first main point is that our new Transnational Threats Department places the OSCE in a position to be the Assembly's closest partner in effectively developing and integrating United Nations strategies among the OSCE's 56 participating States and 12 Partners for Cooperation.

The Transnational Threats Department brings together OSCE expertise on anti-terrorism, policing, border security, cybersecurity and other areas that might emerge in the future. The OSCE continues to support the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and works closely with the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations to ensure the Strategy's implementation. The main OSCE anti-terrorism objectives fully comply with the Strategy, thereby making the OSCE an effective supporter and a regional facilitator of the implementation of pertinent global efforts. Let me link that to my partner institution that focuses on the human dimension.

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) supports the implementation of pillar IV of the Strategy, namely, "Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism". ODIHR assists OSCE participating States in developing and implementing human rights-compliant anti-terrorism policies. In particular, ODIHR supports them in strengthening their law enforcement capacities to respect human rights through training in countering terrorism while protecting human rights. ODIHR also provides advice and analysis on key human rights issues in the anti-terrorism context and, upon request, assists OSCE participating States in drafting and strengthening existing anti-terrorism legislation in line with international human rights standards and practices.

The OSCE has recognized that security goes beyond politico-military issues and fully encompasses the security of the individual human being. The OSCE multidimensional approach to security does not call for the balancing of liberty and security nor does it suggest that liberty, or aspects thereof, must be sacrificed to achieve security. On the contrary, the OSCE regards respect for human rights and the rule of law as an integral element of security. Combating and ultimately overcoming terrorism will not succeed if the means to do so are not in conformity with human rights standards.

OSCE participating States have pledged to fully respect international law and human rights standards when preventing and countering terrorism. They have reaffirmed, on a number of occasions, that the struggle against terrorism is not a war against religions or peoples and that anti-terrorist action is not aimed against any religion, nation or people. They have also recognized the crucial role played by civil society in anti-terrorism efforts and are committed to solidarity with the victims of terrorism.

Furthermore, other OSCE structures in the economic dimension, such as the Office of the Coordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, are also active in the fields of suppressing money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. In addition, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media monitors legislation on the prevention of the abuse of information technology for terrorist purposes to ensure consistency with freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to the work of the 16 OSCE field operations that provide, as we say, an ear to the ground. Those mandated to do so offer tailor-made anti-terrorism-related assistance to their host countries.

Let me illustrate a recent example of all the preceding points. The OSCE has been invited to participate and has participated actively in the process leading to the development and adoption of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, adopted by a high-level meeting on 30 November 2011. The OSCE's multidimensional concept of security enables the organization to address transnational threats in a genuine, comprehensive way with the aim of translating political commitments into effective and sustainable action. It is my second main point that our 16 field missions can draw on all of the assets I have mentioned, as well as United Nations or other programmes, to set up a platform for the sustainable follow-through by partners who commit to providing resources.

Returning to today's main focus, anti-terrorism in the OSCE, we are active overall in each of the four pillars outlined in the Strategy. The OSCE's secretariat, institutions and field operations implement many activities and programmes relevant to anti-terrorism. Let me give the Assembly some examples.

As the lead on anti-terrorism issues within the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department, we are the focal point for coordinating the organization's anti-terrorism activities. We offer a wide range of counter-terrorism assistance for participating States and our partners for cooperation, as part of advancing the global counter-terrorism agenda. First, promoting the international framework can be considered as a genuine success story in that regard. Fifty-two of the 56 OSCE participating States are now party to all 12 universal anti-terrorism instruments that were in force in 2001. That means that the ratification rate is 96 per cent. If we add the four new instruments adopted in 2005, the rate of ratification/signature of the 16 universal anti-terrorism instruments is 84 per cent. Of the four instruments, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism was recently ratified by 25 participating States. The OSCE has developed active cooperation with both relevant United Nations entities — the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime — in promoting that international legal framework. I know that many members of the Assembly will be at the side event later this afternoon.

The OSCE is aware that preventing people from embracing violence is of strategic importance in mitigating the threat of terrorism to the maximum extent possible. The OSCE promotes a multidimensional and multi-stakeholder approach to countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism. The organization also facilitates the exchange of good practices and lessons learned. We focus on specific issues such as the role of civil society in countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism; gender and terrorism prevention; community policing and terrorism prevention. So far, we have organized nine national, subregional and regional experts' meetings that addressed those unique issues while drawing on the OSCE's multidimensional expertise and its wide-ranging contacts. We are also currently developing, with our Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, a guidebook to provide policy makers, senior police professionals and community leaders with guidance on how to leverage community policing as part of an effective, multidisciplinary and human rights-compliant approach to preventing terrorism.

We are particularly proud to report that the OSCE has been very active with regard to the growing importance of the Internet, which is an area that is as well-addressed in the United Nations Strategy. The Internet can be a key strategic device and tactical facilitator for terrorists. Terrorists go online to identify, recruit and train new members, collect and transfer funds, organize attacks and incite violence.

Building on two Ministerial Council decisions related to countering terrorists' use of the Internet, the OSCE identifies emerging trends and potential countermeasures by facilitating the exchange of information and good practices between participating States, the private and public sector, as well as civil society. The comparative advantage of the OSCE's efforts related to terrorists' use of the Internet is that they are embedded within the organization's broader efforts to promote a comprehensive approach to cybersecurity. It allows looking at a specific perpetrator group in a cross-dimensional and integrated way that recognizes the interlinkages of cyberthreats and perpetrators and stresses the need for human rights-compliant responses.

In the last area, the OSCE has developed a comprehensive programme on travel document security, which is a cross-cutting programme related to terrorism, policing and border management. The programme has been recognized as a best practice programme of a regional organization by the International Civil Aviation Organization and has helped to serve as a model for other regional organizations. The 50 capacity-building activities in 18 countries organized so far, and supported by technical assistance programmes, have brought about tangible results. This is my third, and final, key point. Our travel document security programme perfectly illustrates how the OSCE's activities related to action against terrorism have not only positive impacts on countering terrorism, but also in reducing other transnational threats such as organized crime or trafficking.

In conclusion, the OSCE builds consensus and political support among its participating States in order to take comprehensive and effective anti-terrorism action. The organization contributes to building State capacity to implement and comply with international instruments and standards. In addition, the OSCE supports efforts by other international and regional organizations, provides a platform for discussions among its participating States, and promotes security within a framework based on human rights and the rule of law.

To reiterate my three main points, first, our new Transnational Threats Department places the OSCE in a position to be States' closest partner in effectively developing and integrating United Nations strategies among at least 72 nations. Secondly, our 16 field missions can draw on all those assets and can take up United Nations or other programmes and provide a platform for sustainable follow-through by partners that are providing resources. Thirdly, our successes show that the OSCE's activities related to action against terrorism have not only positive impacts on countering terrorism, but also in reducing other transnational threats such as organized crime and trafficking.

The OSCE appreciates the Assembly's time and looks forward to building on those three main areas with all the partners in the Hall.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.53, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/66/L.53 was adopted (resolution 66/282).

The President: I shall now give the floor to speakers who wish to speak in exercise of the right of reply. May I remind members that statements in the exercise of the right of reply are limited to 10 minutes for the first intervention and to 5 minutes for the second, and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Schonmann (Israel): It is most unfortunate that certain delegations continue today to exploit this important debate in an outrageous and politicized manner. We are repelled by the remarks made earlier by the representative of Tunisia. The words and images used to describe my country bring to mind the blood libels against Jews from a much darker age. His comments are shameful and have no place in the Hall.

It is also astounding to hear a lecture on human rights from a beacon of human rights such as Saudi Arabia. Indeed, a representative of a country that discriminates against women and brutally represses the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, where homosexual conduct is still punishable by death, flogging, stoning, imprisonment or all of the above, should heed the words of an ancient proverb: those who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Mr. Lakhal (Tunisia) (*spoke in French*): In recalling the terrorist practices inflicted for decades by the State of Israel on the Palestinian people, my delegation invented nothing. We merely recalled and underscored a truth known to all that has been recorded in the annals of the Organization. The representative of Israel represents her country as a victim, when it is the aggressor. She forgets that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a flagrant violation of international law, and that the very presence of Israeli forces on that territory in fact qualifies as an act of terrorism.

The State of Israel resorts to State terrorism. My own country was a victim of that in October 1985, at the cost of the lives of 68 people, 18 Tunisians and 50 Palestinians. The most serious point of all is that State terrorism such as that practised by Israel does not even distinguish between its friends and those whom the State of Israel defines as enemies. I shall not cite examples; the Google search engine can do that.

Moreover, while I do not want to provoke a polemic about this, the representative of Israel stated yesterday was that mosques were in fact nests of terrorism. I think that Israel is in no position to make such an unfounded assertion.

For us, Israel is practising State terrorism, which my country vigorously condemns and which the international community should also condemn as firmly as possible.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 11 (*continued*)

Sport for peace and development

(a) Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic Ideal

Solemn appeal by the President of the General Assembly (A/66/862)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should now like to draw the attention of the General Assembly to document A/66/862, which contains a solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce.

I shall now read out my solemn appeal.

"The ancient Greek tradition of the *ekecheiria*, or 'Olympic Truce', born in the eighth century B.C., serves as a hallowed principle of the Olympic Games. In 1992, the International Olympic Committee renewed this tradition by calling upon all nations to observe the Truce.

"Through its resolution 48/11 of 25 October 1993, the General Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce from the seventh day before the opening to the seventh day following the closing of each Olympic Games. This appeal was renewed in the Millennium Declaration.

"In the 2005 World Summit Outcome, our leaders emphasized that 'sport can foster peace and development' and encouraged the General Assembly to foster a dialogue and agreed proposals for a plan of action on sport and development.

"On 3 November 2005, the General Assembly held a plenary debate on the agenda item entitled 'Sport for peace and development' and also adopted, with universal support, resolution 60/8, entitled 'Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal', deciding to consider this item every two years in advance of each Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

"To this end, on 17 October 2011, the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/5. In that resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to observe, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations, the Olympic Truce, individually and collectively, throughout the period beginning with the start of the Games of the XXX Olympiad, on 27 July, and ending with the close of the XIV Paralympic Games, on 9 September, the vision of which is to inspire lasting change.

"The Olympic movement aspires to contribute to a peaceful future for all humankind through the educational value of sport. The Games will bring together athletes from all parts of the world in the greatest of international sports events as a means to promote peace, mutual understanding and goodwill among nations and peoples — goals that are also part of the founding values of the United Nations.

"As an expression of these common objectives, the International Olympic Committee has decided to fly the United Nations flag at Olympic Park. The United Nations system and the International Olympic Committee have strengthened their mutual cooperation and support through joint endeavours in fields such as poverty alleviation, human and economic development, humanitarian assistance, health promotion and HIV/AIDS prevention, child and youth education, gender equality, peacebuilding and sustainable development.

"I welcome the leadership of Olympic and Paralympic athletes in promoting peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal, and the commitment made by various States Members of the United Nations to developing national and international programmes that promote peace and conflict resolution and the Olympic and Paralympic values through sport and culture, education and sustainable development.

"As President of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, I solemnly appeal to all Member States to demonstrate their commitment to the Olympic Truce for the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games, and to undertake concrete actions at the local, national, regional and world levels to promote and strengthen a culture of peace and harmony based on the spirit of the Truce. Referring to the original tradition of the Olympic Truce practiced in ancient times, as described in resolution 66/5, I also call upon all warring parties to current armed conflicts around the world to boldly agree to true mutual ceasefires for the duration of the Olympic Truce, thus providing an opportunity to settle disputes peacefully."

May I take it that the General Assembly wishes to take note of that solemn appeal in connection with the observance of the Olympic Truce?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 11?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.121

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

121st plenary meeting
Tuesday, 3 July 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 35

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Report of the Secretary-General (A/66/813)

Draft resolution (A/66/L.50)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.50.

Mr. Lomaia (Georgia): Sometimes no news is good news. But that is definitely not so when it comes to the right of return. Another year has passed since the General Assembly adopted its most recent resolution upholding that fundamental right (resolution 65/287). Yet, what we hear from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is that "No major developments took place during the reporting period with regard to refugees and internally displaced persons exercising their right of return" (*A/66/813, para. 12*).

Regrettably, as in years past, the right of return has fallen victim to politically motivated obstructionism. A letter recently circulated among Member States that purportedly focused on this issue revealed an astonishing disregard of the plight of the forcefully displaced. Members of the Assembly have undoubtedly read that letter. To our common amazement, it failed to include a single word about the displaced — not a single word. It was merely a rehash of the same old political arguments. In fact, the author did not even bother to change the date on the letter, which still reads "19 June 2011". Given that disregard for accuracy and the truth, it was no surprise that the letter claimed to include a quotation from the Secretary-General's 2012 report.

Yet, the sentence it cited does not even exist in the report. Instead, it seeks to legitimize the so-called new reality and, referring to the citizens of my country, who come from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, the letter brazenly declares that they "will never be able to exist within a single country". In this new reality, there is no place for the half a million men, women and children — Catholics, Orthodox, Jews and Muslims; and Georgian, Abkhaz, Ossetian, Armenian, Greek, ethnic German and others. They represented a staggering 75 per cent of the pre-war and pre-conflict population, before they were expelled from their homes in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia.

The mantra of a new reality suggests that the international community should simply accept a paradigm in which three quarters of the population is ethnically cleansed — an action that is then accounted for as a fait accompli. We believe that an overwhelming majority of the Assembly would beg to differ. Instead, they would agree with what the Secretary-General reiterates in his 2012 report, namely,

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12-40377 (E)

Please recycle

> "It is essential to recognize return as both a human right and a humanitarian issue that must be addressed irrespective of any solution to an underlying conflict." (*A/66/813, para. 34*)

The Secretary-General could hardly have been any clearer. In fact, by introducing draft resolution A/66/L.50, we leave politics aside and focus exclusively on the humanitarian dimension of the problem.

The displaced are consumed by all that they were forced to leave behind. Their once-vibrant communities are now ghost towns or, worse, foreign military garrisons. But those dark visions are leavened by hopeful thoughts, too. They dream of the day they will return to heal their wounds and restore their broken neighbourhoods. They take solace in the Assembly's continued, humane attention to their condition, and they earnestly believe that the unwavering calls of the international community will bear fruit and that those who prevent those men, women and children from returning to their homes will one day be compelled to change their minds. That is why this draft resolution is so important. It encourages the participants in the Geneva talks to redouble their efforts to ensure respect for human rights and create favourable conditions for the safe, voluntary and dignified return of all displaced persons to their places of origin.

We have said it before, and we will continue to say it until justice is delivered: each and every one of those hundreds of thousands of souls carries a dream in their hearts, the dream of returning to the soil that nurtured generations of their ancestors and of sharing it with their children. We continue to believe that maintaining the issue of Georgia's internally displaced persons on the agenda of the General Assembly makes a significant contribution to an eventual return of the displaced. We also believe that the annual report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly is an important tool yielded by the draft resolution. Most important, however, the draft resolution sends a powerful signal to all those forcibly displaced in my country, as well as others in similar conditions all around the world, that is, that the international community stands by them.

Despite the lack of progress in recent years, hundreds of thousands of displaced persons have again vested their expectations in the Assembly, hoping for a helpful decision from it. I urge members to vote in favour of the right of return.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.50, entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia".

Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote before the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Pankin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Georgian draft resolution before us (A/66/L.50), as was the case with previous resolutions, is extremely politicized and not in line with reality. Furthermore, it has nothing to do with its authors' apparent concerns about the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees and so-called high humanitarian goals. It is yet another attempt by those who bear the full responsibility for the region's serious humanitarian situation to push that responsibility off onto others and to draw the attention of the international community to themselves.

The draft resolution has been prepared without taking into account the current political realities in the region. In the title of the draft resolution itself and in its confirmation of the right of return for IDPs and refugees to their homes throughout the entire territory of Georgia, including in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, they appear to be saying that Abkhazia and South Ossetia belong to Georgia. It is time to come to terms with the objective fact that there are two new States in the region, Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Georgia's leadership and its supporters need sooner or later to understand that. The geopolitical reality cannot be changed by means of this distorted draft resolution.

The draft resolution appears to seek the return of IDPs and refugees from Abkhazia and South Ossetia. In reality, it complicates the already fragile negotiation process that is part of the Geneva discussions. Furthermore, those discussions remain the only effective negotiation forum for representatives from Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Georgia, including on humanitarian issues and the situation of refugees and IDPs. No one is surprised by Georgia's stubborn unwillingness to conclude a legally binding agreement on the non-use of force with the South Ossetian and Abkhazian sides.

Against that backdrop, the text's call for "all participants in the Geneva discussions to intensify

their efforts to establish a durable peace, to commit to enhanced confidence-building measures" (*A/66/L.50, para. 5*) is open demagoguery.

If the Georgian side proposes to discuss the subject here in New York, as stipulated in the draft resolution, it is essential that the representatives of Abkhazia and South Ossetia be invited. Such a discussion is meaningless without their participation. This is just another attempt by Georgia to impose a timetable for the return of IDPs. We can only speculate on the motives of the authors of the draft resolution and the reasons that they ignore the position of the Secretary-General, who clearly stated his opinion in his report (A/66/813), to the effect that such a step is not possible at this stage. It is therefore clear to all that Tbilisi is acting from purely political motives and attempting to ignore the humanitarian situation with no care for the fate of thousands of Georgians, Abkhazians, Ossetians and citizens of other nationalities who have suffered as a result of short-sighted and aggressive policies.

The Russian Federation is convinced that the draft resolution that has been introduced by the representative of Georgia will not help to normalize the situation in the region and will not create trust between the Abhazian, South Ossetian and Georgian parties, which is an essential precondition for the return of IDPs. These problems have arisen not through some mythical foreign plot, but as a result of a purposeful policy imposed by the Georgian authorities themselves, which culminated, as we know, in Georgia's attack on peaceful Tskhinvali on the night of 7 August 2008.

Given what I have said, the Russian Federation would ask that we proceed to the vote on the draft resolution, which we will vote against. We trust that Member States will follow our example and will not support this clearly politicized initiative from Tbilisi. In voting against it, they will contribute more to solving the humanitarian problems in that region.

Mrs. Kolontai (Belarus) (*spoke in Russian*): Belarus has carefully studied the draft resolution introduced by the representative of Georgia (A/66/L.50). Our delegation's position remains unchanged: on such an important issue as that of providing assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), a decision must be arrived at by consensus and as the result of an open and transparent negotiation process that includes the participation of all interested parties.

We draw the Assembly's attention to the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General, which says that

> "Over the past three and a half years, the Geneva international discussions, co-chaired by the European Union, [the] OSCE and the United Nations, have remained the single forum for the key stakeholders to discuss security and stability and humanitarian issues, in particular related to the return of refugees and internally displaced persons." (*A/66/813, para. 49*)

In the light of that, we note the importance of maintaining the Geneva consultations format and the quest to find a solution to the issues here together through negotiations. We are concerned about the possibility that a non-consensus adoption of the draft resolution could harm the discussions in Geneva. We know that the adoption of similar resolutions in previous years almost led parties concerned to refuse to be involved in the Geneva negotiation processes. We would propose that we take advantage of those discussions to continue efforts to find mutually acceptable approaches in order to solve the issues raised in the draft resolution through negotiations. In our view, the Geneva format is the most appropriate forum for solving problems relating to security and stability in the region as well as to humanitarian issues, including those involving refugees and internally displaced persons.

Given the situation, the Belarusian delegation maintains the position it expressed during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly and will not participate in the voting on the draft resolution.

Mrs. Furman (Israel): Israel welcomes the steps the Government of Georgia has taken to implement the strategy on internally displaced persons (IDPs) highlighted in the Secretary-General's report (A/66/813). The strategy has brought about a marked improvement in the humanitarian situation of IDPs. Israel is encouraged by the action plan for implementing the strategy for 2012-2014. Israel also takes a positive view of Georgia's programme of engagement through cooperation, which aims to build trust and confidence among divided communities.

Israel would like to take this opportunity to reiterate once again our support for and recognition of Georgia's territorial integrity. We do not support or recognize any unilateral declarations of independence by Abkhazia or South Ossetia. We reiterate our well-established

position that the way to resolve long-standing conflicts is through a negotiated, mutually agreed approach, and not through unilateral actions.

The Acting President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/66/L.50, entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia".

A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Comoros, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Vanuatu

Against:

Armenia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nauru, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe

Abstaining:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Suriname, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia

Draft resolution A/66/L.50 was adopted by 60 votes to 15, with 82 abstentions (resolution 66/283).

[Subsequently, the delegations of Greece and the Netherlands advised the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour; and the delegation of Kuwait that it had intended to abstain.]

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote following the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Rey (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): Switzerland abstained from the voting on resolution 66/283, which was introduced by the representative of Georgia and entitled "Status of internally displaced persons and refugees from Abkhazia, Georgia, and the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia".

As a constant in our policies, Switzerland recalls the obligation that exists to pay particular attention to the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in post-conflict situations, as well as their right to return to their places of origin. We intend to provide the most favourable conditions for the discussions that began in Geneva following the 2008 conflict. We believe those talks to be the appropriate forum for dealing with the issue of internally displaced persons and refugees. Consequently, Switzerland supports all efforts of the international community aimed at making a consensus solution possible among the parties on the question of IDPs and refugees.

Mr. Apakan (Turkey): I take the floor to briefly explain our position. We are concerned about the fact that the conflicts in the Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia remain unresolved. The situation has serious economic, social and humanitarian consequences, primarily for the people of Georgia but also for the peoples of the Caucasus region as a whole.

Turkey supports all efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of those conflicts. We invite all parties to work towards a comprehensive and sustainable peace that also provides for the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees. As a country of the region and a neighbour of Georgia, we stand ready to contribute all efforts towards that end.

I wish to reiterate Turkey's firm commitment to the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia with its internationally recognized borders.

We continue to believe that the Geneva talks provide a valuable forum to also address the issue of the voluntary, safe, dignified and unhindered return of IDPs and refugees. We hope that the discussions at Geneva can be made to bear their full potential in order to have a positive and concrete outcome. To achieve that, we call on all sides to seriously engage with others in a cooperative manner and take action to build confidence.

Ms. Ivanović (Serbia): I take the floor to briefly explain our position following the voting on resolution 66/283, which we have just adopted.

As a country that has faced a long-standing problem with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees on its territory, Serbia is fully committed to finding just, comprehensive and sustainable solutions for displacement situations all over the world that include full respect for the rights of displaced populations, in particular, the right of all refugees and internally displaced persons to return safely to their homes without preconditions and with adequate security guarantees.

To that end, we believe that the General Assembly should continue to deal with displacement issues in the comprehensive framework of the draft resolutions on the protection of and assistance to IDPs and refugees adopted annually or biannually in the Third Committee by consensus. Serbia is a sponsor of those draft resolutions because they address human rights issues in addition to having a very important humanitarian dimension.

We support the long-standing practice in the General Assembly of finding a common understanding in addressing sensitive humanitarian issues by adopting thematic humanitarian draft resolutions by consensus. Given that today there are many different situations involving displacement all around the world, singling out specific situations of displacement through specific resolutions could lead to the proliferation of such resolutions in the General Assembly while their adoption by vote provides fewer prospects for the real improvement and solution of the situation of refugees and IDPs on the ground.

Serbia respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States Members of the United Nations, including Georgia, and understands Georgia's concern about the status of internally displaced persons and refugees. We support every effort to find a consensual solution for the specific situations of internally displaced persons and refugees. Therefore, draft resolutions aiming for such solutions should, in our view, be adopted by consensus. That is why, as in previous years, while recognizing the importance of elements contained in the resolution that has just been adopted which apply to the problem of displacement in general, Serbia could not support it.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Georgia.

Mr. Lomaia (Georgia): Together we have just adopted resolution 66/283, which lifts the spirits of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons and refugees who were forced by violence and fear to flee their homes and communities. It is on behalf of those men, women and children, citizens of Georgia of various ethnic and religious backgrounds, that I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to the General Assembly.

Today's vote marks the fifth straight year that the Assembly has invoked the norms and principles of international law to defend the right of every displaced person to return to his or her home. With each passing year, the circle of understanding and support is widening. I know that, in some cases, the Assembly's support of the resolution might not have come easily — a fact that had little to do with the merits of the resolution itself. That makes the Assembly's affirmative vote even more noteworthy. Unfortunately, the moral clarity that guides us all on the issue today has been challenged once again by blatant attempts to politicize the resolution. But truth and dignity prevailed and the resolution was adopted by an even greater margin than in previous years.

Back in 2008, we started the battle with just 14 votes cast in favour; we now stand at 60. I have no doubt that soon, through our common efforts, a majority of the general membership will stand in support of the resolution. Rest assured that we remain as determined

as ever to bring dignity and relief to our compatriots who have suffered for so long. We will engage with all stakeholders to ensure that the right of return is respected and exercised.

Finally, on behalf of all those who have suffered from violence and discrimination, we would like once again to express our heartfelt gratitude to each and every Member State that voted in favour of the resolution.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 35?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 14 (*continued*)

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Draft resolution (A/66/L.51)

The Acting President: Members will recall that, at its 72nd plenary meeting, held on 2 December 2011, the General Assembly held a debate on agenda item 14 jointly with agenda item 117, agenda item 123 and its sub-item (a), and agenda item 124. Members will also recall that, under agenda item 14, the Assembly adopted resolution 66/28 at its 118th plenary meeting, held on 28 June.

I now give the floor to the representative of Morocco to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.51.

Mr. Iziraren (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.51, on the International Year of Crystallography, on behalf of the following sponsors: Australia, Belgium, Chile, the People's Republic of China, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, India, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Poland, and my own country, Morocco.

Today, the influence of science on the lives of people and its role in the development process is well recognized. Since its inception, 100 years ago, modern crystallography has developed in close cooperation with other scientific disciplines and has had a considerable impact in various years, such as the development of modern medicines, nanotechnology, biotechnology and the manufacture of aircraft components, which clearly shows the close links between crystallography and various sectors of industry.

Moreover, crystallography is an excellent example of the universality of science because it permeates several other sciences at the most basic levels, including physics, biology, medicine, chemistry, mineralogy, geosciences and cultural heritage. The importance of the scientific achievements in crystallography has been demonstrated in the more than 20 Nobel Prizes awarded in this discipline. The awarding of those prizes has also shown broad gender balance worldwide.

At the international level, crystallographers are represented by the International Union of Crystallography, which was founded in 1948 and whose mission is to serve the crystallographic community and promote international cooperation. Three regional associations further that cooperation in various parts of the world, including North-South cooperation, namely, the American Crystallographic Association for North and South America, the Asian Crystallographic Association for the South Pacific and Asia and the European Crystallographic Association for Europe and Africa. Regional associations play an important role in promoting crystallography in the North-South dialogue, all the more so since education and the exchange of scientific knowledge are an essential component of North-South cooperation in the area of crystallography.

The purpose of the draft resolution is to mark the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of modern crystallography by declaring 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography. The crystallographic community throughout the world enthusiastically welcomes the idea of commemorating the anniversary of the birth of modern crystallography.

The purposes of the International Year of Crystallography are to provide a framework for celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of modern crystallography, to promote international cooperation among scientists worldwide, to raise awareness of the role of crystallography in the development of modern technology, to illustrate the universality of science, to promote education in crystallography and its ties with other sciences, and to intensify crystallography programmes in all regions of the world where there is not sufficient education in crystallography, in particular in developing countries. All of the those goals are closely linked, and it is expected that the International Year of Crystallography will have a strong educational component, primarily for developing countries and for countries where the disciple is less developed.

The draft resolution invites UNESCO to facilitate the commemoration of the International Year of Crystallography in close cooperation with Governments, the International Union of Crystallography, regional crystallographic associations and United Nations bodies. The draft resolution also encourages all Member States, United Nations bodies and other interested parties to take advantage of the Year to promote initiatives at all levels aimed at raising public awareness on the importance of crystallography and ensuring broader access to new knowledge and activities in that sphere.

Before concluding, I would like to express my country's appreciation to all sponsors of the draft resolution for their support and commitment. I would also like to thank all delegations that participated actively and constructively in the consultations process. Finally, I urge all delegations to join the sponsors of the draft resolution.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/66/L.51 entitled "International Year of Crystallography".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.51?

Draft resolution A/66/L.51 was adopted (resolution 66/284).

The Acting President: Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

Mr. Archondo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia would like to congratulate the sponsors of resolution 66/284, which proclaims the year 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography. We recognize the understanding that humankind has of the material nature of the world on the basis, in particular, of knowledge of crystallography.

With regard to nanotechnology and biotechnology, which are referred to in the resolution just adopted, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia would like to underscore the fact that while those technologies have brought about scientific advances in the modern world in such fields as public health, medicine and other areas, when it comes to developing new materials through those new technologies, an adequate use of those technologies should be ensured when developing products for daily use so that they do not have a negative impact on the environment, public health and food.

I would like to recall that, in various international forums, civil society organizations and sine researchers have expressed their concern about the development of certain applications in both biotechnology and nanotechnology that are being carried out without adequate regulation or clear and precise information on the consequences thereof. For that reason, they have set out the need, for example, to apply an immediate global moratorium on some applications of those technologies until we better understand their effects. Furthermore, they have also warned that particles artificially constructed at the nano scale could present new risks for health and the environment.

The technology of crystallography is used in Bolivia in the area of structural research, particularly in the area of research into the resources from extraction in the Salar de Uyuni. In geological research and the study of mineral raw materials, crystallographic analysis is not only helpful, it provides data for identifying materials and the further development of new applications in the following areas: new types of clean energy, particularly the use of semiconductors; the area of the photocatalytic processes; electrodes for energy systems; and catalysts for transforming hydrocarbons in petroleum and gas chemical products used in the field of gas synthesis, the transformation of liquid gas and the production of oxygen and alcohol, among others.

Moreover, in the area of mineral processing in general, particularly of extracted resources, we in Bolivia have been working since 1986 on testing lithium and treating the salt layers of the Salar de Uyuni. Bolivia, which is a country relatively new to the development of science and technology, has been using crystallography in developing its natural resources, daily developing technological processes to transform its raw materials, particularly in lithium production and the lithium and potassium salts of Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni.

The Acting President: We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote after the voting.

I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union to make a statement following the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. Bulanek (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

We are pleased to join the consensus today on resolution 66/284, which proclaims 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography. We recognize the broad impact that crystallography has on many scientific fields, and the benefits it offers society as a whole. Discoveries in this field have formed the basis for developments in the medical and public health sectors, as well as solutions to plant and soil contamination, among other issues. There is no doubt that the results of crystallographic research can have a positive impact on development and can help in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. We therefore support the promotion of crystallography in order to improve knowledge of the science, and we call for its continued support.

However, we would like to take this opportunity to express our concern about the recent proliferation of resolutions that proclaim international observances, particularly international years. More than 30 years ago, the Economic and Social Council established, by consensus, guidelines on international years, which were subsequently affirmed by the General Assembly in 1998. They were designed to support the implementation of international observances and to promote their best possible impact by setting clear guidelines for Member States' consideration of such proposals. In recent years, unfortunately, those guidelines have rarely been met. Since 2001, seven years have been designated as international years for more than three topics at the same time, a direct contradiction of the Economic and Social Council guidelines. The year 2009 saw the celebration of five different international years.

We are concerned that continuing the practice of declaring overlapping international observances for the same time frame could lead to less attention being paid to the important topics they are intended to highlight, on the part of both Member States and the wider international community. We are trying to inspire with such declarations, and not to have an adverse impact on the achievements they proclaim. We therefore call on all Member States to work together to ensure proper observance of the guidelines we have set for ourselves, in order to ensure than international years continue to receive the attention they deserve and to have a continued positive impact on international development and solidarity.

The Acting President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 14.

Agenda item 32 (*continued*)

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Draft resolution (A/66/L.52)

The Acting President: Members will recall that the Assembly considered agenda item 32 at its 60th plenary meeting, on 18 November 2011.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.52.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): It is an honour for the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in its capacity as of Chair of the International Movement of New or Restored Democracies, to introduce to the General Assembly the draft resolution contained in document A/66/L.52, entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies". It has been an arduous but enriching experience for my country to facilitate the drafting of this draft resolution. In our view, the long hours of negotiations have resulted in a balanced, substantive text that duly reflects the spirit of this noble cause. In that connection, we would like to offer our thanks to the large number of countries that have sponsored the draft resolution.

The high-level international conferences for new and restored democracies have set in motion a movement for promoting democratic development and encouraging a new style of international cooperation on democratization within the frameworks of social justice and religious and cultural diversity. It is important to recognize, as this draft resolution does, that while democracies share common characteristics, there is not one single model of democracy alone, and that every State has the sovereign right to elect and freely determine its own political, social, economic and cultural system, in accordance with the will of its people and without interference from other States, in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

We therefore urge the Governments, parliaments, civil society and social movements of the world to create mechanisms and spaces aimed at consolidating new and restored democracies, and to participate actively in the process of international conferences for those democracies.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/66/L.52, entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to announce that, since the submission of draft resolution A/66/L.52, in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Slovakia, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey and Uruguay.

The Acting President: May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.52?

Draft resolution A/66/L.52 was adopted (resolution 66/285).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 32?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.122

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

122nd plenary meeting
Monday, 23 July 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 6 (*continued*)

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly

Election of the Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-seventh session

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that, at its 114th plenary meeting, on 8 June, the Assembly elected, in accordance with rule 30 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, 20 of the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly for the sixty-seventh session. There remained the election of one Vice-President from among the Group of African States.

I have been informed by the Chair of the Group of African States, in a letter dated 29 June, that Kenya has been selected by the African States to fill one of the seats allocated to Africa as a Vice-President of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of General Assembly decision 34/401, the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Assembly by secret ballot will be dispensed with when the number of candidates corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. We shall proceed accordingly.

Since there is only one candidate for the one seat to be filled from among the African States, I declare Kenya elected Vice-President of the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. I congratulate Kenya on its election.

Agenda item 63 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(a) New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Draft resolution A/66/L.40/Rev.1

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b), alongwith agenda item 13, at its 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings, on 11 October 2011.

I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.40/Rev. 1.

Mr. Djacta (Algeria): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China, a draft resolution entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", contained in document A/66/L.40/Rev.1, under sub-item (a) of agenda item 63.

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

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The Group of 77 and China would like to express its appreciation to all delegations for their constructive deliberations on and contributions to the draft resolution. Our particular appreciation is extended to the facilitator, Mr. Modest Mero of Tanzania, for his remarkable work and to the coordinator, Mr. Hussein Elshaar of Egypt, for his tremendous effort and commitment on behalf of the G-77 and China.

We would like to highlight that the draft resolution reaffirms the support of the entire United Nations membership for the implementation of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development and recognizes the progress in its implementation. The draft resolution also stresses the need to implement all commitments of the international community to Africa's development and to continue to support the special needs of Africa in order to mitigate the impacts of the world economic and financial crisis on the continent. It emphasizes the need to enhance the voice and participation of developing countries, including African countries, in international economic decision-making and norm-setting and to avoid further marginalization of the continent in that regard.

The Group of 77 and China hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by acclamation during this meeting.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Before giving the floor to the speaker in explanation of vote before the voting, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Ms. Nemroff (United States of America): I thank you, Mr. President, for giving the United States the floor to underscore our support for Africa's common vision to achieve the goals and objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). My delegation fully supports African-led efforts to enhance economic growth and to enjoy the benefits of integration into the global economy. The United States takes note of the progress under way in areas critical to economic growth and sustainable development. We encourage the ongoing activities to assist the implementation of NEPAD by African States.

The United States delegation is pleased to join the consensus on the draft resolution before us today, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", contained in document A/66/L.40/Rev.1. We especially appreciate the excellent facilitation efforts of our Tanzanian delegation colleague, Mr. Modest Mero. In future General Assembly consideration of NEPAD, we wish to stress the importance of keeping the focus on Africa and its development, while being mindful of its macroeconomic underpinnings. The discussion of broader international macroeconomic policy issues are extensively and more appropriately treated under the relevant agenda item in the Second Committee.

The United States delegation attaches great importance to the annual consideration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and congratulates all parties on today's imminent adoption of the draft resolution.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We have heard the only speaker in explanation of vote before the voting.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.40/Rev. 1, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support". I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I should like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in document A/66/L.40/Rev.1, the following countries have also become sponsors of the draft resolution: Australia, Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.40/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/66/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 66/286).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (a) of agenda item 63?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): Members will recall that the General Assembly considered, in a joint debate, agenda item 63 and its sub-items (a) and (b), along with agenda item 13, at its 32nd and 33rd plenary meetings, on 11 October 2011.

I now give the floor to the representative of Algeria to introduce draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Djacta (Algeria): I have the honour to introduce, under sub-item (b) of agenda item 63 and on behalf of the Group of 77 (G-77) and China, a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa", as contained in document A/66/L.41/Rev.1.

The Group would like to express its appreciation to all delegations for their constructive deliberations and contributions to the draft resolution. We would also like to thank all the Member States that have joined the list of sponsors. Our special thanks go to the facilitator, Mr. Hussein Elshaar of Egypt, and the coordinator, Mr. John Mugerwa of Uganda, for their outstanding work.

We welcome the progress made by African Member States, the African Union and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. We also welcome their continuing efforts to settle conflicts and promote human rights, democracy, the rule of law and constitutional order in Africa.

While the responsibility for peace and security in Africa, including the capacity to address the root causes of conflict and to resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner, lies primarily with African countries themselves, we also recognize the need for the support of the international community and the United Nations, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter.

We are convinced that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system, its Member States and regional and subregional organizations, as well as of international and regional financial institutions. In particular, the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations requires national Governments and international partners to continue to develop coordinated approaches tailored to the peacebuilding needs and challenges faced by those countries.

We would like to stress that international and regional efforts to prevent conflict and consolidate peace in Africa should be channelled towards the sustainable development of Africa and the human and institutional capacity-building of African countries and organizations, particularly in priority areas identified at the continental level.

The Group hopes that this draft resolution will be adopted by acclamation at this meeting.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Assembly will now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I would like to announce that, since the submission of the draft resolution, in addition to those delegations listed in the document, the following countries have become sponsors of draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1: Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1?

Draft resolution A/66/L.41/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 66/287).

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 63 and agenda 63 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 115 (*continued*)

Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments

(g) Appointment of members of the Joint Inspection Unit

Note by the President of the General Assembly (A/66/864)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): As indicated in document A/66/864, the General Assembly is required, during the current session, to appoint members of the Joint Inspection Unit to fill the vacancies that will arise from the expiration of the terms of office, on 31 December 2012, of Mr. Mohamed Mounir-Zahran, Mr. Nikolay V. Chulkov, Mr. Enrique Román-Morey, Mr. Even Francisco Fontaine Ortiz, Mr. Zhang Yishan, and Ms. Deborah Wynes.

Members will recall that, at its 47th plenary meeting, on 1 November 2011, the Assembly decided to fill one vacancy in the Joint Inspection Unit for a term of office beginning on 1 January 2012 and expiring on 31 December 2016, which resulted from the resignation of Mr. Enrique Román-Morey (Peru) with effect from 31 October 2011. That vacancy was subsequently filled at the 92nd plenary meeting, on 23 December 2011, by Mr. Jorge Flores Callejas (Honduras).

In accordance with the procedures described in article 3, paragraph 1, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit and pursuant to resolution 61/238, of 22 December 2006, having consulted Member States and having drawn up a list of countries from among the regional groups concerned, I requested the Gambia, Haiti, India, the Russian Federation and the United States of America to propose candidates to serve for a period of five years beginning on 1 January 2013.

As also indicated in document A/66/864, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 59/267, of 23 December 2004, candidates should have experience in at least one of the following fields: oversight, audit, inspection, investigation, evaluation, finance, project evaluation, programme evaluation, human resources management, management, public administration, monitoring and/or programme performance, in addition to knowledge of the United Nations system and its role in international relations. As further indicated in document A/66/864, as a result of the consultations held in accordance with article 3, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, including consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council and with the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, I submit to the Assembly the candidatures of Ms. Sukai Prom-Jackson (Gambia), Mr. Jean Wesley Cazeau (Haiti), Mr. A. Gopinathan (India), Mr. Gennady Tarasov (Russian Federation) and Mr. George Bartsiotas (United States of America) for appointment as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2013 and expiring on 31 December 2017.

May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to appoint Ms. Sukai Prom-Jackson (Gambia), Mr. Jean Wesley Cazeau (Haiti), Mr. A. Gopinathan (India), Mr. Gennady Tarasov (Russian Federation) and Mr. George Bartsiotas (United States of America) as members of the Joint Inspection Unit for a five-year term of office beginning on 1 January 2013 and expiring on 31 December 2017?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 115?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 127 (*continued*)

International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

Letter from the Secretary-General (A/66/819)

Letter from the President of the Security Council (A/66/870)

Draft decision (A/66/L.54)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): We shall now proceed to consider draft decision A/66/L.54.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Nakano (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): This oral statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In connection with draft decision A/66/L.54, entitled "International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring

States between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994", I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General.

By the draft decision, the General Assembly would, first, decide that, notwithstanding the expiry of their term of office on 30 June 2012, Judge William H. Sekule (United Republic of Tanzania), Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa (Uganda) and Judge Mparany Mamy Richard Rajohnson (Madagascar) may continue, on an exceptional basis, to serve at the International Tribunal until 31 December 2012 or until the completion of the *Ngirabatware* case which they began before the expiry of their term of office, while taking note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete the *Ngirabatware* case by December 2012; secondly, take note of the intention of the International Tribunal to complete all remaining judicial work by 31 December 2014 and decide, bearing in mind the expiry of his term of office on 30 June 2012, to extend the term of office of Judge Vagn Joensen (Denmark), on an exceptional basis, until 31 December 2014 so that he may continue to perform the functions required of him as trial judge and President of the International Tribunal, to complete the work of the Tribunal and express its intention to review this decision in June 2013.

The extension of the term of office of Judge William H. Sekule, Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa and Judge Mparany Mamy Richard Rajohnson through 31 December 2012 would require a total payment in honoraria amounting to $126,000 for an aggregate period of six additional months.

The extension of the term of office of Judge Vagn Joensen through 31 December 2014 would require a payment in honoraria for the biennium 2012-2013 of $273,000 for 13 additional months from 1 December 2012 to 31 December 2013. The extension of the term of Judge Joensen would also entail the retention of three staff members — a driver, a security officer and a secretary — and miscellaneous expenses for security, transportation and office space amounting to $190,000.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft decision A/66/L.54, additional requirements in the amount of $589,000 for honoraria, staff and miscellaneous expenditures would arise under the budget for the Tribunal for the biennium 2012-2013. The Tribunal would make every effort to meet these additional requirements from within the overall resources amounting to $171,613,100 approved for the Tribunal for the biennium 2012-2013.

The President: May I take it that the Assembly wishes to adopt the draft decision?

The draft decision was adopted.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 127.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

Note by the Secretary-General (A/66/234)

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The General Assembly will now take up a request submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/66/234, relating to the election of a member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

In his note, the Secretary-General informs the General Assembly that he has received notification, by a letter dated 6 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Poland, that according to the agreement among members of the Eastern European States to rotate their membership in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law among themselves, Poland is relinquishing its seat in favour of Croatia. The General Assembly will therefore be required, at its current session, to elect a member to fill the remainder of the term of office of Poland, which expires on the last day prior to the beginning of the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in 2016.

The agenda of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly does not contain a sub-item on the election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. The Secretary-General has therefore deemed it necessary to request, pursuant to rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional sub-item entitled "Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law", under agenda item 114, entitled "Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections".

Given the nature of the item, unless there is an objection, may I take it that the General Assembly agrees to waive the relevant provision of rule 40 of the rules of procedure, which would require a meeting of the General Committee on the question of the inclusion of this additional sub-item on the agenda?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): May I take it that the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, wishes to include in the agenda of the current session, an additional sub-item entitled "Election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law", as a sub-item of agenda item 114 under heading I (Organizational, administrative and other matters)?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): The Secretary-General has requested that the sub-item be considered in plenary meeting. May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to consider this sub-item directly in plenary meeting?

It was so decided.

The President (*spoke in Arabic*): I should like to inform members that this additional sub-item becomes sub-item (e) of agenda item 114 of the current session.

The meeting rose at 11 a.m.

United Nations A/66/PV.123

General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Official Records

123rd plenary meeting
Friday, 27 July 2012, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Al-Nasser ..... (Qatar)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills, President of the Republic of Ghana

The President: It is my sad duty to pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills, the late President of the Republic of Ghana, who passed away on 24 July.

It is with deep sadness that we bid farewell to His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills. On behalf of the entire membership of the United Nations, I extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife and bereaved family, and to the Government and people of Ghana.

Before this difficult time of grief and mourning, Mr. Mills had a most distinguished career as a professor of law. He was an admirable public servant and a great sports enthusiast. As President of Ghana, he was widely regarded as a caring, principled and dedicated leader who made lasting contributions to the advancement of economic development and good governance. Millions of Ghanaians will remember him as a man of peace who was truly dedicated to democracy and who worked hard for the unity and stability of his country. Thanks to his leadership, Ghana remains today a model of democracy in the region. Mr. Mills's legacy of hard work, integrity and sacrifice will remain bright and enduring for the people of Ghana and of the world.

I now invite representatives to stand and observe a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills.

The members of the General Assembly observed a minute of silence.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Botswana, who will speak on behalf of the African States.

Mr. Ntwaagae (Botswana): I have the honour and privilege to deliver this fitting tribute on behalf of the Group of African States in New York.

It was with a profound sense of shock and grief that the whole of Africa received the sad and heartbreaking news three days ago about the demise of the President of the Republic of Ghana, Mr. John Evans Atta Mills. In Mr. Mills, Africa has lost one of its shining stars. As we look up to the skies and pray to the Almighty, it is just too difficult to contend with the reality of that irreplaceable loss.

Mr. John Evans Atta Mills was indeed a distinguished son of Africa who had an unwavering commitment to the improvement of the quality of life and welfare of his people. Throughout his political career, Mr. Mills fought for the social and economic empowerment of the average Ghanaian. In that process, he specifically targeted the less privileged and made a conscious effort to reach out to them. Indeed, the African continent has lost one of its illustrious sons, a distinguished statesman, a patriot par excellence, an agent of change, and above all, an embodiment of integrity and humility.

Since assuming power in 2008, President Mills devoted his energy and attention to the transformation

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of Ghana and to promoting Ghana's competitive edge in the global market. Mr. Mills was also a man of immense intellect who was highly admired and respected throughout the African continent. In the legal profession, Mr. Mills rose through the ranks to become an accomplished academic and mentor, and also a passionate scholar on taxation. He authored quite a number of publications on the subject of taxation, which were sources of reference throughout and outside of Ghana. He served as Commissioner of Ghana's Internal Revenue Service.

The Professor, as he was popularly known in his native country, firmly believed in the sanctity of human dignity. He was a person who got along and always enjoyed sharing his knowledge and experience with people around him. He also had an extraordinary temperament. Mr. Mills was the kind of person who rarely showed emotion, even under the most trying circumstances.

The best way that Africa and the international community as a whole can continue to honour Mr. Mills's memory and legacy is to renew their commitment to upholding human dignity, democracy and accountable governance, freedom and justice, all of which he greatly cherished during his lifetime.

On this solemn occasion, we convey our deepest sympathies and heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana, and to the family of the late President. May almighty God keep his soul in eternal peace.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States.

Mrs. Mesquita Borges (Timor-Leste): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asia and Pacific small island developing States as we pay tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills, President of Ghana. On behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States, I should like to extend our deep and heartfelt condolences and express our full sympathy and solidarity with the people and Government of Ghana. The Asia-Pacific Group would also like to offer its sorrowful condolences to the President's family.

History will remember the late President for his dedication and long-standing service to his country and people. From his role as a law professor to his work as Vice-President and then President, he was instrumental during a pivotal period in the history of Ghana and the region. President Mills worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the people of Ghana. His efforts bore fruit in the economic growth that Ghana has seen and in the progress it has made in building on and consolidating its democracy. Under his stewardship, Ghana has been hailed as a model of democracy and stability. His vision for the future has seen results accrue from policies focused on investing in local people to ensure that they not only reap the benefits of economic growth, but are also competitive nationally and internationally.

The untimely demise of President Mills, whose qualities and characteristics were too numerous to list here, is felt not only in the hearts of Ghanaians but across the world, where he will be remembered with affection.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. Vukobratović (Bosnia and Herzegovina): In my capacity as Chair of the Group of Eastern European States, I would like to express our most sincere condolences to the Government and people of the Republic of Ghana for the loss of President John Atta Mills. Our deepest sympathy also goes to the late President's family.

President Mills was an outstanding political figure on the African continent. He will be remembered for his leadership and dedicated service to his country on its path to democratic and economic success. His efforts to improve the quality of life and human rights of his people have been widely recognized. Under President Mills, Ghana made notable progress in various areas of economic development in the midst of a global economic crisis. His dedicated work and tireless efforts to strengthen democracy and good governance, as well as the significant contribution he made to promoting regional peace, have been praised by the international community. We hope that the legacy of President Mills will serve as an outstanding example in future efforts to lead his country towards progress and prosperity.

We would like to ask the delegation of Ghana to convey to the Government and people of Ghana and the family of the late President Mills our sentiments of solidarity and compassion.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Haiti, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. Cazeau (Haiti) (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to pay tribute to the memory of a great visionary and statesman.

On 24 July, a baobab tree fell too soon, at the age of 68, in a hospital in Accra, Ghana. The news of his demise was quickly heard around the world. Here in New York, we meet today to pay tribute to him — not a final tribute, as has been said, but rather in celebration of his life, which was full and dedicated to the advancement of his country, his people, his great continent and of all humankind.

I speak, of course, of President John Atta Mills, who has gone ahead of us to the afterlife, three days after his birthday. He was born on 21 July 1944 in Tarkwa, in the west of the Gold Coast, which became Ghana after independence was declared on 6 March 1957.

A graduate of the economic and political science faculty of the University of London, a holder of a doctorate in law from the University of London's School of African and Oriental Studies, and a Fulbright scholar at Stanford University Law School, President Mills devoted more than a quarter of a century of his life on Earth to training the young people of his country. He was also a visiting professor at Temple University Law School in Philadelphia and at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

President Mills, whose rare integrity was constantly tested, in addition to his numerous intellectual activities, become involved in public life and served his nation at various levels and in various sectors until he was elected to the State's highest public office in 2009.

The President of Haiti, Mr. Michel Joseph Martelly, paying homage to President Mills upon his demise, said that President Mills, whose life will forever be associated with a glorious chapter in Ghanaian history, embodied in his own way the honour of our time. There is no doubt that his memory leaves Ghana a great legacy. Indeed, Ghana remains an example of political stability and democracy that makes it an international lodestar. Its robust economic and social health, development and growth, which never cease to amaze, have made it a showcase for West Africa and must be credited to great visionaries of the calibre of President Mills.

To the successor to this great man — whom I compare yet again to a great baobab tree — I would like once more to offer the sympathies of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. We are certain that, under the leadership of the new President, His Excellency Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President Mills's great projects and programmes will pursue their forward march towards Ghana's lasting development, to the benefit of the whole of Africa. To his bereaved family, the people of Ghana, his immediate colleagues, friends and allies, his alma mater, we recall that this great man, loving husband, good and caring father, sincere friend and ally fought the good fight — a fight that griots will long sing of unchallenged in the galleries and public places and under baobab trees. Let us follow in his footsteps, seek his shade and keep alive his dreams for the future of a better world.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Germany, who will speak on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. Berger (Germany): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the members of the Group of Western European and other States. I wish to convey to the people and Government of the Republic of Ghana our deepest condolences for the loss of their Head of State, His Excellency John Evans Atta Mills. With the death of President Mills, we mourn the passing of a great statesman, who led Ghana in times of prosperity and made his nation an anchor of stability. In Ghana, we have witnessed the stable development of a democratic State.

Under the wise leadership of John Atta Mills, Ghana has been a reliable partner for the United Nations, with a balanced and prudent engagement in the fragile region of West Africa. President Mills's passing will leave a huge emptiness in the hearts of the Ghanaian people and his followers. We are convinced, however, that Ghanaian democracy will overcome this loss and that the elections in Ghana planned for December of this year will again show the world the mature state of Ghanaian political culture. We wish President Mahama wisdom and courage to lead Ghana towards the elections while promoting, in his tenure, the prosperity of the great Ghanaian nation.

The members of the Group of Western European and other States wish to voice our appreciation and gratitude for the contribution President Mills made not just to his country, but also to the African region and the entire international community. President Mills worked tirelessly for the well-being of the Ghanaian people. Our thoughts and sympathies are with the loved

ones of President Mills, his family and the whole nation at this difficult time.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the United States of America, who will speak on behalf of the host country.

Mr. DeLaurentis (United States of America): On behalf of the host country and the American people, I express our deepest sympathies on the passing of President John Evans Atta Mills of Ghana.

President Mills led Ghana through a period of remarkable growth and development. As President Obama said in his message of condolence,

> "President Mills tirelessly worked to improve the lives of the Ghanaian people. He helped promote economic growth in Ghana in the midst of challenging global circumstances and strengthened Ghana's strong tradition of democracy."

President Mills promoted regional peace and reinforced Ghana's reputation as a leader in Africa. Prior to leading his country, President Mills served with distinction as a Fulbright scholar in the United States and, during his tenure as President, he forged a deeper partnership between Ghana and the United States. Only a few months ago President Obama hosted President Mills in the Oval Office. His passing is a tremendous loss for all of us in the international community. Today our thoughts and prayers are with his family and with all the people of Ghana.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Ghana.

Mr. Kanda (Ghana): I address the Assembly this morning with deep sorrow and a very heavy heart. Ghana has lost an illustrious and indefatigable son, His Excellency Mr. John Evans Atta Mills.

He was taken ill suddenly around noon on Tuesday, 24 July, and was rushed to the military medical facility in the capital city. Unfortunately, he passed away around 2.15 p.m., barely one and a half hours after he was taken ill. That day will go down in the history of Ghana as one of its saddest days.

President Mills was in all respects honourable, honest and, above all, extremely humble. He was respectful and respected. He led a surprisingly simple life for a man in his position. He had deep respect for the Office and the people he served. He was a leader par excellence.

He assumed leadership in Ghana during a period in which Ghana needed peace and, above all, tolerance. He was astute in that role and steered the affairs of Ghana to the admiration of all.

President Mills was a scholar, a brilliant professor, an avid sportsman and a distinguished teacher. I had the singular opportunity and honour to serve him as his Chief of Protocol both when he was Vice-President and subsequently when he became President of the Republic of Ghana. I developed a personal relationship with him. He was a fine gentleman. He taught us the glorious virtues of humility and simplicity. He would always say to us, "Do sincere and honest work and you will invariably be rewarded". His death is a huge and painful loss.

We are well-advised, however, not to emphasize how we die, but how we have lived. His life's legacy can be summed up by the accolade bestowed on him by Ghanaians — *Asomdwehene*. In the Ghanaian Akan language, *asomdwehene* means "king of peace". He preached peaceful coexistence, eschewed divisiveness, and lived and led as a father for all. Therefore, while we mourn him, we should equally celebrate his accomplished life. He will be laid in state on 7 and 8 August in Accra. His funeral and burial will then take place on 9 August.

On behalf of President John Dramani Mahama, the Government and the people of Ghana, I wish to express our sincere thanks and profound appreciation and gratitude to the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for this morning's event and for the kind and warm tributes that have been paid to the memory of the outstanding champion of democracy, the rule of law and peace, Mr. John Evans Atta Mills.

The President: Before we proceed to the next item, I shall now suspend the meeting for a short period in order to await the statement of programme budgetary implications for draft resolution A/66/L.56, to be provided by the Department of Management.

The meeting was suspended at 11 a.m. and resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Agenda item 19 (*continued*)

Sustainable development

Draft resolution A/66/L.56

The President: Members will recall that, at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General

Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 19 to the Second Committee. Members will also recall that, at its 108th plenary meeting, on 16 May 2012, the Assembly decided to consider agenda item 19 directly in plenary meeting, and adopted decision 66/561. And under the same item, the Assembly adopted decision 66/544 (b) at its 109th plenary meeting, on 21 May 2012.

We are about to adopt today a draft resolution (A/66/L.56) that endorses the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The future we want". Let me first, on behalf of the membership of the United Nations, reiterate our sincere gratitude to the Gove nment and people of Brazil for hosting the Rio+20 Conference and for their warm hospitality. Brazil spared no effort in providing the support needed to ensure the success of that historic Conference. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of the Government of Brazil, which helped Memb r States to conclude the outcome document that will chart a new way for sustainable development. I would also like to acknowledge the noble leadership of the Secretary-General, His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, throughout the process.

The meetings in Rio in 1992 and in Johannesburg in 2002 put sustainable development on the map, but Rio+20 has defined a new vision of development for the future that is equitable and inclusive and that takes into account the limits of our planet. We have defined the future that we want. Now what is important is implementation. A number of processes were launched in Rio but, in order for them to be successful, we need development cooperation.

International development cooperation must continue to play a key role in promoting solutions to our global challenges. Development cooperation must become wider and deeper. It must go far beyond development assistance. Technology transfer and capacity-building need to be part of development for it to be effective and sustainable. Commitments should be honoured. I am very happy that my Office and I personally were also able to contribute to the preparatory process, including by organizing a retreat and a high-level dialogue. I am also grateful for the opportunity to be part of this historic conference and to speak at its opening and closing.

I am very pleased to see that the General Assembly will continue to play a central role in sustainable development. Member States have their work cut out for them as they discuss the definition of the sustainable development goal, the establishment of a high-level political forum, the crafting of an effective sustainable development financing strategy, the creation of a facilitation mechanism that promotes development, the transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and the adoption of modalities for the third international conference on small island developing States in 2014.

In that regard, I wish the Permanent Representative of Brazil success in her role as facilitator of the establishment of the open working group on sustainable development goals. I am sure that my successor will ably lead all such processes. Thus, by adopting draft resolution A/66/L.56 today, we are opening a new chapter. I am confident that it will be a successful chapter as our Heads of State and Government have committed to a path for a new sustainable future for us all.

Let me conclude with what I said in Rio just a few weeks ago. Rio+20 is not an end but a new beginning and the promise of a better life for us and our children and for future generations.

The Assembly will now proceed to consider draft resolution A/66/L.56.

I give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): I wish to put on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

In draft resolution A/66/L.56, the General Assembly would endorse the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", which is annexed to the draft resolution

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place from 20 to 22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Conference adopted an outcome document that defined agreements on a common vision for the future, renewed political commitment to sustainable development, key areas related to the green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, including the establishment of a high-level political

forum, a framework for action and follow-up in critical areas, including sustainable development goals, and the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns and means of implementation.

Under the terms of paragraphs 84, 86, 88, 180, 248, 249, 255, 256, 257, 273 and 283 of the outcome document, the General Assembly would decide to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid any overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner;

The Assembly would decide to launch an intergovernmental and open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process, under the General Assembly, to define the high-level forum's format and organizational aspects with the aim of convening the first high-level forum at the beginning of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. It would also consider the need for promoting intergenerational solidarity for the achievement of sustainable development, taking into account the needs of future generations, including by inviting the Secretary-General to present a report on the issue.

The Assembly would commit to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. It would reaffirm resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, which established UNEP, and other relevant resolutions that reinforce its mandate, as well as the 1997 Nairobi and 2000 Malmö Ministerial Declarations.

To that regard, the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, would adopt a resolution strengthening and upgrading UNEP in the following manner: establish universal membership in the Governing Council of UNEP, as well as other measures to strengthen its governance and its responsiveness and accountability to Member States; have secure, stable, adequate and increased financial resources from the regular budget of the United Nations and voluntary contributions to fulfil its mandate; enhance UNEP's voice and ability to fulfil its coordination mandate within the United Nations system by strengthening UNEP engagement in key United Nations coordination bodies and by empowering UNEP to lead efforts to formulate United Nations system-wide strategies on the environment; promote a strong science-policy interface, building on existing international instruments, assessments, panels and information networks, including the Global Environmental Outlook, as one of the processes aimed at bringing together information and assessment to support informed decision-making; disseminate and share evidence-based environmental information and raise public awareness on critical and emerging environmental issues; provide capacity-building to countries and support and facilitate access to technology; progressively consolidate headquarters functions in Nairobi and strengthen its regional presence in order to assist countries, upon request, in the implementation of their national environmental policies, collaborating closely with other relevant entities of the United Nations system; and ensure the active participation of all relevant stakeholders, drawing on best practices and models from relevant multilateral institutions and exploring new mechanisms to promote transparency and the effective engagement of civil society.

Building on the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, the Assembly would call for the convening of the third international conference on small island developing States (SIDS) in 2014, recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS, and invite the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session to determine the modalities of the conference.

The General Assembly would resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group would be constituted no later than the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly and would comprise 30 representatives, nominated by Member States through the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation. At the outset, this open working group would decide on

its method of work, including developing modalities, to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It would submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action and coordinate the process, which needs to be coherent with the processes considering the post-2015 development agenda. The initial input to the work of the working group would be provided by the Secretary-General in consultations with national Governments. In order to provide technical support to this process and to the work of the working group, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to ensure all necessary input and support to this work from the United Nations system, including by establishing an inter-agency technical support team and expert panels as needed, drawing on all relevant expert advice. Reports on the progress of work would be made regularly to the General Assembly.

The General Assembly would agree to establish an intergovernmental process under its own auspices, with technical support from the United Nations system, and in open and broad consultations with relevant international and regional financial institutions and other relevant stakeholders. The process would assess financing needs; consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks; and evaluate additional initiatives with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

The General Assembly would implement the process of an intergovernmental committee, comprising 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, and concluding its work by 2014. The Assembly would consider this report and take appropriate actions.

The General Assembly would request relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing technology needs of developing countries, options to address them and capacity-building. It would request the Secretary-General, on the basis of the options identified and taking into account existing models, to make recommendations regarding the facilitation mechanism to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session.

The General Assembly would welcome the commitments voluntarily entered into at Rio+20 and throughout 2012 by all stakeholders and their networks to implementing concrete policies, plans, programmes, projects and actions to promote sustainable development and poverty eradication. It would invite the Secretary-General to compile those commitments and facilitate access to other registries that have compiled commitments, in an Internet-based registry. The registry should make information about the commitments fully transparent and accessible to the public, and it should be periodically updated.

With regard to the financial implications of the proposals, this statement of programme budget implications identifies the key paragraphs in the outcome document that may potentially lead to additional resource requirements under the regular budget and/or extrabudgetary resources. The recommendations contained in the outcome document would require further study and consultations with all stakeholders in order to determine the modalities on how the decisions contained in the outcome document are to be implemented, following which the Secretary-General would submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-seventh session, a detailed report on programme budget implications, associated with the implementation of the decisions of the outcome document for the sections concerned, including necessary revisions to the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and possible implications for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. In addition, any implications for the biennial programme plan for the period 2012-2013 and the proposed biennial programme for the period 2014-2015 for the relevant programmes will be presented to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its fifty-third session, in June 2013, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 58/269.

Paragraph 88 of the outcome document invites the General Assembly to adopt a resolution that would strengthen and facilitate the upgrade of the United Nations Environment Programme. In that regard, the Secretary-General, in line with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, would revert on possible financial implications at a time when the draft

resolution of the General Assembly on the outcome document is tabled.

The implementation of the recommendations contained in the outcome document would give rise to additional resource requirements in the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 and in the forthcoming biennium 2014-2015. However, in the absence of more detailed modalities of its implementation, it is not possible for the Secretariat to determine at this stage the full extent of the programme budget implications arising from the draft resolution. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would submit a detailed report on the programme budget implications to the General Assembly for its consideration in the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

The President: I should like to remind members that the report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development will be considered by the Second Committee at its sixty-seventh session in the fall.

The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/66/L.56, entitled "The future we want". May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft resolution?

Draft resolution A/66/L.56 was adopted (resolution 66/288).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mrs. Daniel (Nauru): Nauru has the honour to speak on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), a group of 43 members that are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and whose particular needs and vulnerabilities were first acknowledged at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio in 1992.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Brazil and the people of Rio de Janeiro for being the gracious hosts of these historic events. I would also like to convey our thanks to the Bureau of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and in particular to acknowledge its co-Chairs, Mr. John Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, and Mr. Kim Sook of the Republic of Korea.

"The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex) embodies commitments that will advance our common aspirations to achieve sustainable development. Today, I would like to highlight a few that are particularly relevant to small island developing States (SIDS).

At Rio, leaders called for continued and enhanced efforts to assist SIDS in implementing the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action. These are the essential blueprints for addressing the sustainable development needs of SIDS. Recent assessments show that we are falling short in our commitments under those outcome documents. As long as such gaps remain, SIDS will be unable to achieve the sustainable development for which we all strive.

The time has also come for us to turn our attention to the next SIDS conference. In the same way that Rio+20 allowed us, as an international community, to take stock, the twentieth anniversary of the original Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States will give SIDS a timely opportunity to take stock of how far we have come and how much further we still have to go. We thank the international community for its support, and look forward to working together during the next session of the General Assembly in order to put in place the structure necessary to ensure a successful meeting.

As members of the Assembly are aware, climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. For AOSIS members, sea-level rise and other adverse effects of climate change pose a significant threat to our efforts to achieve sustainable development. For some members, they represent the gravest threat to survival and viability, including through loss of territory. We are gratified to see the seriousness of that issue reflected in the outcome document, and we look forward to seeing real action to convert the concern expressed in the Rio outcome to changes that will ensure the continued existence of AOSIS members.

There can be no doubt that one of the most important agreements to come out of Rio is the decision to undertake work on sustainable development goals. Developing such action-oriented goals, which will be global in nature and universally applicable while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development, and while respecting

national policies and priorities, is a task worthy of our attention. If these goals are to reflect the rich diversity of our global community, we believe it is essential that there be adequate representation of SIDS within the working group. Given the importance to SIDS of the post-2015 framework, we would also suggest that the Secretary-General contemplate inviting representatives from the SIDS to be part of his high-level panel on post-2015 development planning.

We now begin the real work of Rio+20, ensuring implementation of our commitments so that our peoples will see benefits on the ground. AOSIS looks forward to working cooperatively with others to ensure the future we want.

Mr. Aisi (Papua New Guinea): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States (SIDS) represented at the United Nations, namely, Fiji, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and my own country, Papua New Guinea.

We joined the consensus in the adoption today of resolution 66/288, and collectively we also support the statement delivered on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States by the representative of Nauru.

Our appreciation goes to the many different players that worked very hard to make the process of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) a success: first to the co-Chairs, the Ambassadors of Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of Korea; to the United Nations Secretariat, under the able leadership of Mr. Sha Zukang; and certainly to the Brazilian presidency and the people of Rio de Janeiro for hosting us during the Conference. And, not least, I would like to pay special tribute on behalf of the Pacific SIDS to our Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, for his tireless efforts.

The Pacific SIDS regard the outcome of Rio+20 as a success in the cause of advancing sustainable development. The document we have just adopted (resolution 66/288, annex) is very comprehensive, and so in the interests of time I will focus only on two aspects.

First, on oceans, the Pacific SIDS regard the Rio+20 outcome as a crucial step towards the preservation and sustainable use of oceans. Our outcome document is forward-looking and at the same time practical. The world has recognized the importance that oceans play in the everyday lives of all people. Many important issues are covered in the section on oceans. We have achieved a step forward on sustainable fisheries, the protection of coral reefs and ocean acidification, ocean fertilization, marine pollution, the introduction of alien marine species, the transfer of technology, sea-level rise and coastal erosion, subsidies and reform of regional fisheries management organization. Most important, we are giving countries the tools to help themselves in identifying and developing their strategies in order to derive the biggest benefit from their ocean resources. The Pacific SIDS see the outcome as a solid basis for defining sustainable development goals, particularly on oceans. Indeed, we look forward to the work of the sustainable development goal committee, and we note the comments just made by the representative of Nauru in that regard.

My second point is on the sustainable development of small island developing States. The outcome of Rio+20 is encouraging yet sobering. It highlights the threat of lost territory for SIDS, and for some of us that means the loss of our territory and the disappearance of States. The document states correctly that it represents "the gravest of threats to their survival and viability" (*resolution 66/288, annex, para. 178*). At the same time, Rio+20 is looking for a practical way forward. In particular, the third global conference on small island developing States in 2014 will provide us with answers on our unique and particular vulnerabilities. However, it will also provide us with an opportunity to showcase our achievements, where we lead the world on sustainable development and of which we are rightly proud. The Pacific is proud to offer to host the Conference.

There are also some grey areas where the outcome document is unclear. For example, we do not know what will happen to the review of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, which were undertaken on a biennial basis at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. We are looking forward to discussing the subject at the high-level political forum.

Lastly, Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute to you for your tireless efforts in this regard.

Mr. Valero Briceño (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): We thank you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting to adopt

the outcome document, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June. We would also like to congratulate Brazil on its excellent work in hosting that event.

The future we want is not very well mapped out in this document, and it is missing a lot of what is needed in order to ensure that humankind does not perish. Since life is better than death, humankind will not let it vanish without a struggle. Our planet and nature can survive without us, but we cannot survive without them. The worst-case scenario is that human life could disappear; unfortunately, this is not a mere scenario. All the available scientific data and relevant documents of the United Nations tell a tale of the progressive deterioration of ecosystems and the quality of life of species. In the document we have adopted today, the Earth is seen as a repository of resources, and humans are not sufficiently appreciated for their qualities as integral inhabitants of Mother Earth.

The speculative economy is the distinguishing characteristic of the capitalism preying on the human species and nature today. Those mainly responsible for the climate change that is affecting the world and every country in it have succeeded in ensuring that the Kyoto Protocol is powerless to deal with the effects of climate change. Sustainable development is missing at least three dimensions: ethics, culture and ecology. In that regard, Venezuela will continue to fight for the Kyoto Protocol and its validity and against the perverse policies of financial capitalism that are destroying humankind and the planet. We must ensure that nature is not seen as a commodity for the benefit of the few.

Regarding the adoption of resolution 66/288, entitled "The future we want", the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to express its reservations concerning paragraphs 125, 126, 127, 129, 162 and 225, as well as to make a clarification concerning paragraph 162. We take this opportunity to express our concern about statements issued by certain bodies of the United Nations that are attempting to implement in piecemeal fashion some sections of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in particular the section relating to the so-called green economy. They attempt to ignore the fact that Heads of State and Government have affirmed that every country uses different approaches, models, visions and instruments that depend on their individual national circumstances in its efforts to achieve sustainable development.

The green economy is not the only available model to that end, and our policies should be governed by all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Thus, all United Nations entities, including those of the Secretariat, should follow those parameters for sustainable development in order to ensure achievement of internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

In conclusion, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that its statement of reservations and the previous explanatory statements to which I have referred be included in the record of this plenary meeting of the General Assembly, and that they form an integral part of the document adopted today. To that end, my delegation will provide the Secretariat with a corresponding document.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): New Zealand welcomes the adoption today of resolution 66/288. The outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was the product of weeks of work by States, major groups and the Secretariat, both here and in Rio de Janeiro, and we pay tribute to all that effort. We would like to express particular appreciation to the Preparatory Committee co-Chairs, Ambassadors Kim Sook of the Republic of Korea and Ashe of Antigua and Barbuda, for their work; and, of course, to Brazil, which brought together the final text in a form that we could all accept in Rio. That was no easy task.

Achieving consensus on such a complex document, even before the high-level meeting, was positive not only for the Conference but also demonstrated that multilateral processes can and do work. New Zealand was pleased that many of its priority areas were reflected in the final text. The paragraphs on oceans and fisheries represent real progress, and we hope the proposed sustainable development goals will include one on oceans, reflecting their critical role in the health of our planet. We welcome the decision to hold a third international conference on small island developing States in 2014, hopefully, as has already been suggested in the statement made on behalf of the Pacific small island developing States, in our own Pacific region. We were also pleased with the reference to fossil fuel subsidy reform, even though it is not as strong as we had

originally proposed. We see that reform as important to free up the resources needed for financing sustainable development.

There were, of course, some aspects about which we were less happy, including the lack of a reference to agricultural subsidy reform and to reproductive rights. But let me be clear. Overall, New Zealand regards Rio+20 as a success, and we will say that as often and as loudly as might be necessary.

The outcome document is naturally not the end. It is very much a work programme for the next few years as it establishes ambitious processes and timetables, not least on institutional reform. In seizing the opportunities presented by the Rio Conference, we must keep at the forefront the certain knowledge that, in this twenty-first century, the only viable development is sustainable development that integrates all three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.

Rio+20 was also a landmark for private-sector involvement. Indeed, it was one of the most participatory conferences in history, assisted by new technologies. That particularly helped engage young people, whose future we were discussing. Sustainable development is not just a matter for States. The private sector, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders can make important contributions and must all be part of the processes going forward. Overall, the road from Rio will be as challenging as the road to Rio. New Zealand will willingly play its part in the work that lies ahead.

Finally, we must express sadness that it was not possible for two very small Pacific countries — the Cook Islands and Niue — to attend the critically important sustainable development conference, as they did in Rio in 1992 and in Johannesburg in 2002. I will not rehearse again the reasons for that. Suffice it to say, the whole Pacific family, of which they are an integral part, regrets their exclusion and hopes that it will never happen again. After all, when it comes to sustainable development, *he waka eke noa* — we are all in this canoe together.

Mr. Husain (Canada): Canada was pleased to join the consensus on resolution 66/288, endorsing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). We would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil for hosting such a successful conference. We would also like to reaffirm Canada's commitment to actively contribute to the important work that was launched in Rio, including the drawing up of sustainable development goals that would be a key aspect of the post-2015 development framework.

(*spoke in French*)

Following the resolution's adoption, we would like to underscore that Canada provided an explanatory note on the outcome document of Rio+20 (resolution 66/288, annex), in which we stated our positions on the right to drinking water and basic sanitation. That note was submitted to the Secretariat of the United Nations in order for it to be distributed as an official document of the Conference.

Mr. Seger (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the Government of Brazil for its excellent hosting of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and for its decisive role in the summit's success. Furthermore, my thanks and congratulations also go to the two co-Chairs of the process, Ambassadors John Ashe and Kim Sook.

Switzerland welcomes the adoption of the outcome document of Rio+20, entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex), in which we, the community of States, reiterated our commitment to sustainable development. Nevertheless, the success of the Rio+20 Conference will be measured not just by the outcome document, but, above all, by the actions that we undertake based on that declaration.

In Rio, we started several processes that have the capacity to lead to significant progress. Switzerland is ready to commit to those processes and looks forward to working with all members in order to ensure an effective follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference. Switzerland particularly welcomes the commitment made in Rio to further the sustainable development goals. It is important that those goals take into equal account the three aspects of sustainable development and that the development of such goals be coordinated beyond the 2015 process. We attach great importance to the smooth functioning of the working group on sustainable development goals and we welcome its establishment.

Switzerland welcomes the fact that Rio+20 introduced the concept of the green economy into the global agenda. The outcome document is a good basis

for action and a starting point to accelerate the change towards a green economy. Switzerland is convinced that the green economy helps industrialized countries as much as developing countries as an important instrument for achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication.

Ms. Patmore (Australia): Australia would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Brazil for its leadership as host and President of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), as well as the co-Chairs of the Conference, Ambassador John Ashe and Ambassador Kim Sook and its Secretary-General, Mr. Sha Zukang, for their commendable drive and commitment towards achieving the outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex)

Australia welcomes the Rio+20 outcome document and fully supports its endorsement. We believe that the document sets a coherent forward agenda for sustainable development, and we look forward to working with all stakeholders to implement the future we want.

Australia welcomes the agreement to establish a set of universal sustainable development goals. We look forward to working with other Governments and stakeholders on the process to develop those goals in the coming year, particularly to ensure that they are integrated in the post-2015 development agenda. Supporting countries to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) remains a high priority for Australia. We are glad that that commitment will be further developed through the Secretary-General's MDG Advocacy Group, of which Australia's Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, is pleased to have been appointed co-Chair.

Australia particularly welcomes the priority given at Rio+20 to the conservation and sustainable management of our oceans and seas. Australia worked constructively with a range of States, including the small island developing States and coastal States, to achieve outcomes that encourage the elimination of harmful fishery subsidies and the reduction of marine debris and that recognize the significance of ocean acidification and the need for enhanced action on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. In that regard, Australia welcomes the decision to hold the third international conference on small island developing States in 2014, which will be critical to advancing the sustainable development agenda for those States.

Strengthening the international commitment to gender equality is a high priority for Australia. We are pleased that the importance of gender equality and women's economic empowerment to sustainable development featured so prominently across the text. We also welcome the agreement at Rio+20 to strengthen the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations Environment Programme and to establish a high-level political forum for sustainable development.

As our Prime Minister Julia Gillard said at Rio+20, the next step towards achieving sustainable development must be turning those words into action. Australia was pleased to announce some $180 million in new funding towards that end. We look forward to working with all stakeholders to implement the Rio+20 outcomes, which will lay the foundations for achieving a sustainable future for all.

Mr. Archondo (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, the Plurinational State of Bolivia would like to express its recognition and thanks to the Government and people of the Federative Republic of Brazil for having hosted the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro from 20 to 22 June, and for their outstanding work during the Conference.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia joined the consensus on resolution 66/288, entitled "The future we want", in the context of the adoption of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which we have just adopted. In that regard, the Bolivian delegation reiterates its position expressed on 22 June in Rio de Janeiro, which is reflected in document A/CONF.216/8, in which we express our reservations with regard to certain sections of the outcome document of the Conference. We hope that our position will be duly reflected in the record of this plenary meeting.

With regard to our reservations, Bolivia raised at the Conference and reiterates now the following points on the green economy. The Plurinational State of Bolivia rejects the consideration of the green economy as a new model and tool for the privatization of nature and society with the ostensible goal of achieving sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. Bolivia therefore reserves its position with regard to all references to the green economy and any interpretation arising from it that could be understood as a commodification of the functions and cycles of

nature, payment for environmental services, ways of avoiding commitments undertaken by developed countries towards developing countries, obligations for developing countries, and conditionalities on technical, technological and financial cooperation with reimbursable and non-reimbursable resources, including those allocated by international financial institutions for the sustainable development of developing countries. Bolivia assumes and reaffirms, as expressed in paragraph 56 of the Rio outcome document, that

> "there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with its national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development" (*resolution 66/288, annex, para. 56*),

and that countries have the sovereign right to choose their own sustainable development approaches, visions, models and tools.

Bolivia, as a sovereign State, has opted for the vision of good living through comprehensive development in harmony and balance with Mother Earth in order to build a fair and just society with solidarity, respecting the rights of original indigenous rural people and the Bolivian people as a whole.

Bearing in mind the principles of international law such as the equality of rights, the self-determination of peoples, the equal sovereignty of all States, non-interference in the domestic matters of States, the right to development in the context of the exercise of competencies provided for by international law, Bolivia understands that the means of implementation and flexibility in the context of sustainable development are critical. Therefore, no conditions should be applied to various visions, approaches, models and tools adopted by Governments to achieve sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. At the same time, Bolivia understands that the agencies and programmes of the United Nations will implement this resolution respecting the agreement of Member States and without introducing elements that were not agreed upon at the Conference in Rio.

However, Bolivia also reserves its position with regard to paragraph 225 of the outcome document on the rationalization of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, because it implies a restructuring of our tax and regulatory system, and is contrary to the political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia because it affects decisions that are of a purely sovereign nature.

Furthermore, we affirm that the implementation of that paragraph could involve an imposition, external interference, a potentially binding commitment and external conditionality for international cooperation, which going forward should not be linked to the so-called sustainable development goals. Similarly, we will accept no kind of assessment, monitoring, reporting or revision of our national energy measures and policies that would affect our national sovereignty.

Bolivia also reserves its position with regard to the notion of innovative forms of financing, included in paragraphs 253 and 267, among others, of the Rio outcome document, which could include or be interpreted as being sources from coal markets, water and water rights markets, payment for environmental services and schemes to commodify natural functions and cycles.

Secondly, Bolivia noted at the Conference and notes again here its own interpretations of the document itself. Bolivia interprets, for example, the term "food security", contained in the section entitled "Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture", as being the achievement of food sovereignty in the context of the process of learning to feed oneself in order to live well. We derive this interpretation from the definition of the World Forum on Food Sovereignty, held in Havana, Cuba in 2001, namely,

> "peoples' right to define their own policies and strategies for the sustainable production, distribution and consumption of food that guarantee the right to food for the entire population, on the basis of small and medium-sized production, respecting their own cultures and the diversity of peasant, fishing and indigenous forms of agricultural production, marketing and management of rural areas, in which women play a fundamental role".

With regard to paragraph 272 of the outcome document, Bolivia interprets the phrase "strengthened ... scientific and technological capacities" to include not only academic and institutional knowledge, but also as the forms of science, traditional technology, local know-how and ancestral knowledge of original indigenous rural populations and the Bolivian people in the context of cultural exchange and a dialogue of knowledge.

On this occasion, I recall that on the historic date of 28 July 2010, the General Assembly adopted resolution 64/292, entitled "The human right to water

and sanitation", which recognizes that "the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights". Although the commitments relating to the human right to drinking water and sanitation are reaffirmed in paragraph 121 of the outcome document, Bolivia also understands that the right to drinking water and sanitation is an essential human right for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights. In that respect, Bolivia will take up that point once again at the next session of the General Assembly, basing ourselves on the resolution approved at this session. Similarly, two years after the adoption of resolution 64/292, we welcome the fact that commemorations to recognize this process are being held by peoples and civil society, including our proposed day to highlight the human right to water and sanitation.

Mr. Souissi (Morocco) (*spoke in French*): Morocco warmly thanks the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Ambassadors of South Korea and Antigua and Barbuda for their tireless efforts over the course of the negotiations on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Morocco welcomes the outcome of Rio+20, which was a first step in building an irreversible process of sustainable development. Rio+20 has laid the groundwork for building the sustainable development goals and a financial strategy that should take shape through the two working groups. Morocco hopes that Rio+20 will be followed up with concrete efforts. The historic consensus adopted in Rio demonstrates the international community's willingness and commitment to making the green economy and sustainable development a reality, particularly through the 2015 process.

Morocco again thanks the President for his untiring efforts.

Mr. Kim Sook (Republic of Korea): I warmly welcome the decision of the General Assembly to formally endorse the outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Brazil once more for its leadership and warm hospitality. I also thank you, Mr. President, and the Secretary-General for your strong leadership and initiative.

I join previous speakers in proclaiming the success of Rio+20. In the document entitled "The future we want", we have reaffirmed our strong commitment to sustainable development and laid a firm foundation for a sustainable future for all. However, the success of Rio+20 will not be complete until follow-up actions are taken. We must live up to the promises in our commitments and implement them in order to make Rio+20 a lasting legacy.

To that end, the General Assembly's role is crucial. We have a lot of work before us, including developing sustainable development goals and strengthening the institutional framework for such development. In the process, we should not forget the wisdom, good faith and spirit of compromise and flexibility that we shared during the long and tough negotiations on the outcome document. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to playing its part in the efforts towards sustainable development, and looks forward to working with Member States to implement the Rio+20 commitments.

Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil): Brazil is proud to have hosted and presided over the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). I would like to express our appreciation to you, Mr. President, to the Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to the Secretariat as a whole, to the co-Chairs of the preparatory process, Ambassadors John Ashe and Kim Sook, and to all Member States and participants for what we accomplished together.

The outcome document we have just endorsed, "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex), is an important landmark in our journey towards sustainable development, which began in Rio in 1992. Together we have taken a significant step towards a more just, equitable and prosperous future. As President Dilma Rousseff stated at the closing session, Brazil is convinced that consensus decisions achieved through multilateralism are the best foundations for progress in our collective endeavours to achieve sustainable development.

The outcome document reflects progress in many important areas, and also paves the way for our future work. We have brought poverty eradication to the centre of the debate on the future we want. We have launched the sustainable development goals to give focus and direction to our collective efforts. The high-level political forum we have established will coordinate the work we do to advance sustainable development and implement the sustainable development goals. The United Nations Environment Programme was strengthened and will be

better able to help developing countries implement their policies. Other important elements include the adoption of the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, the decision to launch a programme of work on broader measuring standards designed to complement that of gross domestic product so as to better inform policy decisions, and agreement on further steps regarding the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Rio+20 was also a landmark for civil society participation. Tens of thousands took part in the People's Summit. The dialogues on sustainable development were an innovative way of engaging various segments of society in the debate. More than a million people took part in the online polls that chose recommendations to be presented to the Heads of State and Government during the Conference. The major cities forum, the women's forum and the more than 1,000 side events showed the intense mobilization of stakeholders and captured their contributions. The registry of commitments gave concrete expression to the strong engagement of Governments, the private sector, civil society and other groups. Rio+20 helped raise awareness of the crucial importance of sustainable development among young people. That is why we believe that it will have lasting impact. Future generations will have a basis from which to push forward the construction of the sustainable world we we envisaged in Rio.

The outcome document we have just endorsed contains several mandates for the development of our work, based on the decisions we took in Rio. Among those are the formation of an open working group for developing global sustainable development goals to be considered by the General Assembly; the establishment of an intergovernmental process, under the General Assembly, to prepare a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy; and considering a set of recommendations from the Secretary-General for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

I thank you, Mr. President, for the confidence you have placed in me by inviting me to facilitate the process of setting up the open working group on sustainable development goals. I trust we will be able to complete the task within the stipulated time. Considerable work lies ahead of us. Brazil will be actively engaged in it.

The President: I now give the floor to the observer of the European Union.

Mr. Beviglia Zampetti (European Union): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member States. The acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The Europ ean Union and its member States strongly welcome the endorsement by the General Assembly of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The future we want" (resolution 66/288, annex). We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Government and people of Brazil for having hosted the Conference and provided all the necessary leadership and support.

As was stated at the highest level in Rio, we consider the renewed political commitment to moving towards sustainable development to be a key outcome of the Conference. We are particularly pleased that we collectively managed to address the challenge of sustainable development governance. We welcome the renewal of the institutional framework for sustainable development and the creation of the high-level forum. As regards environmental governance, we are pleased with the decision to upgrade the United Nations Environment Programme. We consider the enhanced role given to civil society and local authorities in new governance frameworks to be a significant development. The European Union and its member States will contribute actively to translating those commitments into reality.

We also welcome the recognition in Rio that an inclusive green economy is a useful tool and a promising pathway to achieving sustainable development. We remain of the view that, after decades of creating wealth through more conventional economic models, the international community has not decisively addressed resource depletion, environmental degradation, economic inequalities or social marginalization. We believe that an inclusive green economy should address the economic, social and environmental dimensions, thereby significantly contributing to achieving poverty eradication, fair and decent jobs, food security and ecosystem resilience.

Both before and in Rio+20, the European Union and its member States engaged constructively while seeking an ambitious result. We would have liked to see more, but the Rio outcome document offers a number of opportunities for undertaking further substantive work at the international level. In this connection, the European Union and its member States underline the importance of operationalizing and further developing what was agreed in Rio within the United Nations system.

Our commitment to engaging actively and constructively with partners in the forthcoming negotiations and processes established in Rio remains undiminished. Our ambition also remains undimmed. Our collective commitment to eradicating poverty and to improving people's lives while significantly reducing pressures on the environment demands nothing less.

Mr. Yamazaki (Japan): Japan welcomes the adoption of resolution 66/288 and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) annexed to it. We would also like to once again express our heartfelt appreciation to the Government of the host country, Brazil, and to the two co-Chairs and the Bureau of the preparatory process for their leadership.

At Rio+20, we, the Member States, were given the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the transition to a green economy, and the international community was able to send a positive message on moving forward towards a green economy. Member States noted the importance of ongoing efforts to recognize and promote the notion of human security. We also emphasized the importance of taking a people-centred approach in efforts to achieve sustainable development. Japan regards these as significant elements of the outcome document.

We were able to reach an agreement on the establishment of an intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals, which we agreed should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. Japan believes that, after 2015, the international community should strive as one to achieve a single set of international development goals that are simple, clear, measurable and easy to understand.

With regard to the institutional framework, we also agreed on the establishment of a high-level political forum and the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Regarding UNEP, Japan will explain our position on the issue of increasing financial resources from the regular budget during the upcoming follow-up negotiations.

In his statement at Rio+20, the Foreign Minister of Japan, Mr. Koichiro Gemba, announced Japan's green future initiatives, composed of the following three initiatives for sustainable development: first, promoting the future cities we want worldwide; secondly, contributing to the global transition to a green economy; and thirdly, building resilient societies. Japan will steadily implement these initiatives on the basis of human security.

Finally, allow me to assure the Assembly that Japan is fully committed to contributing positively to the Rio+20 follow-up process.

Ms. Kim (United States of America): The United States wishes again to congratulate the Government and people of Brazil on their leadership in making the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development a success. We would like to acknowledge the essential contribution of our co-chairs, Ambassadors Ashe and Kim Sook, all the representatives who stepped in to facilitate key parts of the text, and all our colleagues for the collective hard work needed to achieve the outcome.

As Secretary Clinton said at the Conference, the outcome document (resolution 66/288, annex) marks a real advance for sustainable development. In connection with the outcome document, we would like to reiterate that the United States has additional observations and clarifications on several elements of the outcome document. We have submitted these in writing for inclusion in the official record of the Conference.

The President: The General Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 19.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.